

COMRADES CHEER CHAVEZ'S RETURN

F. SANCHEZ

IAN JAMES

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— President Hugo Chavez returned to Venezuela early Monday after more than two months of treatment in Cuba following cancer sur-

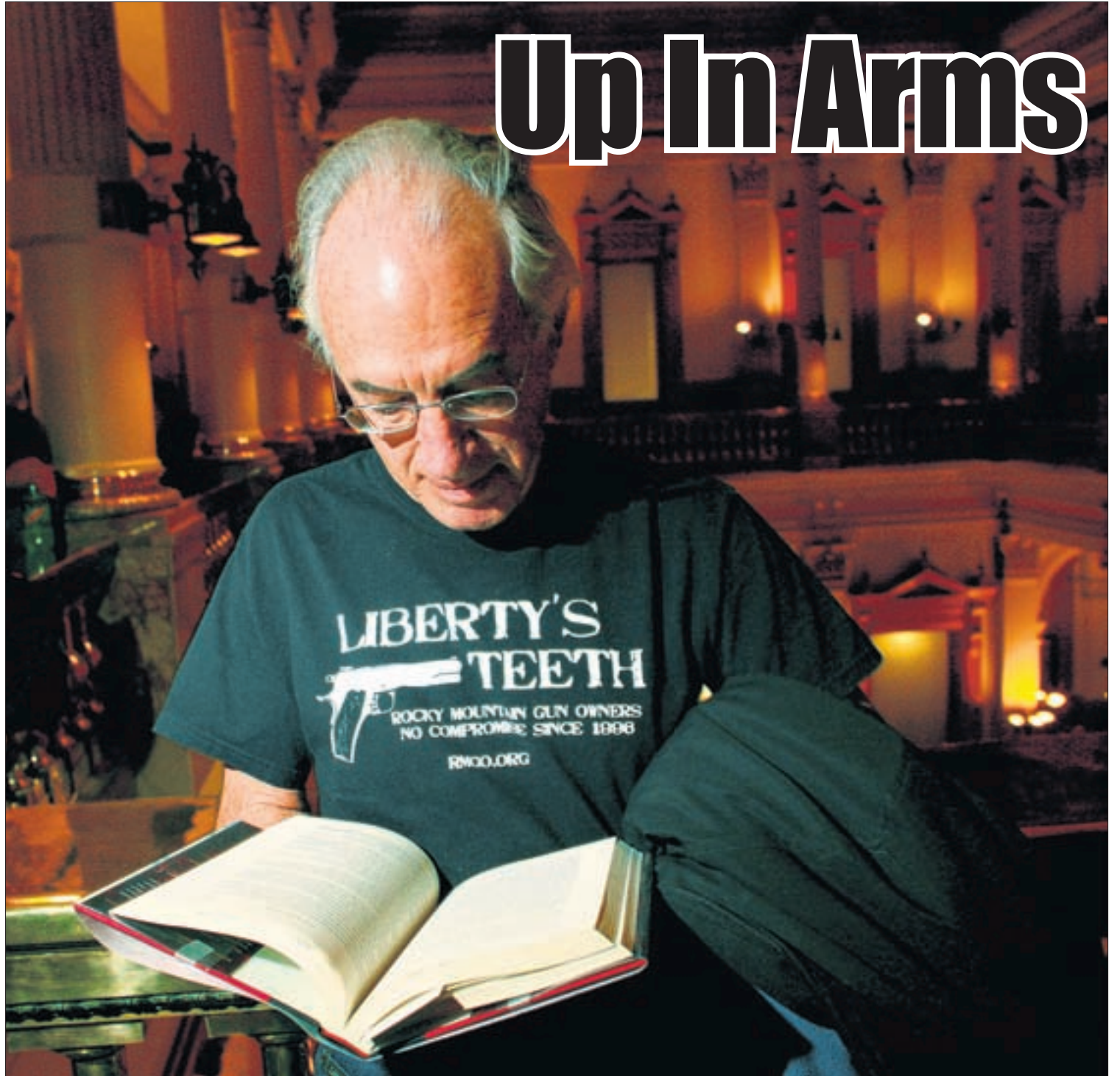


A supporter of Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez celebrates in Bolivar Square, in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, Feb. 18, 2013.
(AP Photo/F. Llano)

gery, his government said, triggering street celebrations by supporters who welcomed him home while he remained out of sight at Caracas' military hospital. Chavez's return was announced in a series of three messages on his Twitter account, the first of them reading: "We've arrived once again in our Venezuelan homeland. Thank you, my God!! Thank you, beloved nation!! We will continue our treatment here." They were the first messages to appear on Chavez's Twitter account since Nov. 1. "I'm clinging to Christ and trusting in my doctors and nurses," another tweet on Chavez's account said. "Onward toward victory always!! We will live and we will triumph!!" Vice President Nicolas Maduro said on television that Chavez arrived at 2:30 a.m. and was taken to the Dr. Carlos Arvelo Military Hospital in Caracas, where he will continue his treatment.

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Up In Arms



Patrick Fitzgerald reads a book as he waits to enter the House Gallery at the Colorado State Capitol, in Denver. Limits on the size of ammunition magazines and universal background checks passed the Colorado House on Monday, February 18, 2013.

(Matthew Staver/The New York Times)

Colorado House passes gun-control bills

IVAN MORENO

Associated Press

DENVER (AP)

— Limits on the size of ammunition magazines and universal background checks passed the Colorado House on Monday, during a second day of emotional debates that has drawn attention from the White House as lawmakers try to address recent mass shootings.

The bills were among four that the Democratic-con-

trolled House passed amid strong resistance from Republicans, who were joined by a few Democrats to make some of the votes close. The proposed ammunition restrictions limit magazines to 15 rounds for firearms, and eight for shotguns. Three Democrats joined all Republicans voting no on the bill, but the proposal passed 34-31.

"Enough is enough. I'm sick and tired of bloodshed," said Democratic Rep.

Rhonda Fields, a sponsor of the bill and representative of the district where the shootings at an Aurora theater happened last summer. Fields' son was also fatally shot in 2005.

Republicans argued that the proposals restrict Second Amendment rights and won't prevent mass shootings like the ones in Aurora and a Connecticut elementary school.

"This bill will never keep evil people from doing evil

things," said Republican Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg.

The House also approved a bill requiring background checks on all gun purchases, including those between private sellers and firearms bought online.

Other proposals would ban concealed firearms at colleges and stadiums, and another requires that gun purchasers pay for their own background checks.

Continued on Page 3

Ailing Chavez returns to Venezuela

Continued from front

Chavez's announced return to Caracas came less than three days after the government released the first photos of the president in more than two months, showing him looking bloated and smiling alongside his daughters. The government didn't release any additional images of Chavez upon his arrival in Caracas, and unanswered questions remain about where he stands in a difficult and prolonged struggle with an undisclosed type of pelvic cancer. Chavez was re-elected to

corner of the National Assembly building.

Villegas reiterated in an interview with Venezuelan broadcaster Union Radio that Chavez is going through a "difficult, hard and complex" recovery process, and that his return doesn't change the "difficult circumstances he has been in."

Villegas said that he hadn't yet seen the president and that the government will provide updates about his condition "whether they're good or they're bad."

The vice president later announced that a Cabinet meeting would be

shirts of his socialist movement, they chanted: "He's back!" As cars passed, drivers honked in support.

"I want to see my president," said Alicia Morroy, a seamstress who stood outside the hospital on the verge of tears. "I've missed him a lot because Chavez is the spirit of the poor."

Six hospital employees who were asked about the president said they hadn't seen him. Yusmeli Teran, a waitress who serves food to patients, told The Associated Press that the area where Chavez was being treated on the 9th floor is a restricted area guarded



Supporters of Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez celebrate his return at Bolivar Square in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, Feb. 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/F. Llano)

a new six-year term in October, and his inauguration, originally scheduled for Jan. 10, was indefinitely postponed by lawmakers in a decision that the Supreme Court upheld despite complaints by the opposition. Some speculated that with Chavez back, he could finally be sworn in.

Government officials didn't address that possibility. Information Minister Ernesto Villegas broke into song on television early Friday, exclaiming: "He's back, he's back!"

"Bravo," Villegas said, before state television employees joined him in the studio clapping and celebrating.

A giant inflated Chavez doll was placed beside a

held Monday evening at the military hospital where Chavez is staying to "revise a number of issues," but he did not provide any details. Hundreds of Chavez supporters celebrated his return in downtown Caracas, chanting his name and holding photos of the president in Bolivar Plaza. A man holding a megaphone boomed: "Our commander has returned!"

Fireworks exploded in some parts of Caracas while the president's followers celebrated.

Dozens of supporters gathered outside the hospital, where a sign atop the building is adorned with a photo of Chavez. Holding photos of Chavez and wearing the red T-

by police and soldiers. "No one has seen him at all," she said.

Chavez's precise condition and the sort of cancer treatments he is undergoing remain a mystery, and speculation has grown recently that he may not be able to stay on as president.

Dr. Carlos Castro, scientific director of the Colombian League Against Cancer in Bogota, Colombia, said that given the government's accounts that Chavez is undergoing "complex" treatment, he thinks he likely will have to step down.

"Unfortunately, the cancer he has isn't going to go away, and he's returning to continue his battle. □

AROUND THE WORLD

Cuba's dissident blogger lands in Brazil

FEIRA DE SANTANA, Brazil (AP) — Cuba's most recognizable dissident landed in Brazil Monday, cheered by supporters and hounded by protesters on her first stop of a three-month global tour and her first trip abroad in nearly a decade after being blocked 20 times from leaving the communist-run island. Sanchez was surrounded by supporters as she walked through the airport in Salvador, but at one point, protesters threw photocopied replicas of U.S. dollar bills at her. One protester got close enough to pull her hair. Cuban authorities consider outspoken dissidents to be traitorous "mercenaries" who accept foreign money to undermine the government.

Obama vacation no-fly zone disrupted

PALM CITY, Florida (AP) — U.S. officials say they're investigating three more apparent breaches of the no-fly zone above President Barack Obama's vacation spot along Florida's Atlantic coastline. According to the FAA, a Lancair 320 allegedly entered the temporarily restricted airspace Saturday. On Sunday morning, FAA officials say a Cessna allegedly entered the restricted flight area. A Robinson R44 helicopter also allegedly entered the restricted zone Sunday. Two F-16 military jets escorted a small plane away from the no-fly zone over Palm City on Saturday. U.S. Army Lt. Col. Mike Humphreys says the planes forced the Cessna 152 to land.

Holder gathers with Caribbean leaders

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder has met with Caribbean leaders at a rare summit in Haiti. The U.S. official wrapped up a quick trip Monday following a meeting with Haitian President Michel Martelly at a hotel conference for mostly English-speaking Caribbean nations. They spoke about crime in the region, efforts to curb weapons trafficking and a need to alert Caribbean nations about imminent deportations. Martelly has served as chair of the Caricom group since January and will hold the title for six months. It's the first time ever for Haiti to host the conference. Holder leaves Monday afternoon.

U.S. citizen shot to death in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Salvadoran authorities say a U.S. citizen was shot to death on a coffee farm in the western part of the country. Police Commissioner Douglas Omar Garcia Funes said Michael James Brown was shot at least five times in the head and shoulders on Saturday night in the town of Izalco. Garcia Funes said the 55-year-old was driving a rental car along with a woman who was wounded and is now under police protection, Funes said. The U.S. State Department warned citizens several weeks ago that El Salvador continues to suffer high levels of violence despite a truce between its largest street gangs.

Morales nationalizes airport company

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — President Evo Morales nationalized on Monday the Spanish-owned venture that runs Bolivia's country's three main airports in his third expropriation of a Spanish company in 10 months. The move drew an angry response from Spain's Foreign Ministry, which "deeply deplored" the lack of warning and, "in particular, the police occupation of its offices." The ministry said it would "reconsider the whole of relations" with Bolivia in light of the "unfriendly act, combined with other similar measures" that Morales' leftist government has recently taken against Spanish companies. □

Colorado House passes gun-control bills

Continued from front

Democrats eked out the closest vote on the background check measure, which passed on a 33-32 vote.

Democratic Rep. Ed Vigil, who represents rural southern Colorado, voted against the four bills, saying his decision was rooted in the state's rugged history. "This is part of our heritage. This is part of what it took to settle this land. I cannot turn my back on that," he said. But even though a few Democrats joined Republicans in voting no for the bills, the Democrats' 37-28 advantage in the House gave them enough leeway.

The Senate still needs to consider the proposals. Democrats will need to be more unified in their support there because their advantage is only 20-15. That means Republicans need only three Democrats to join them to defeat the bills. House lawmakers began debating the bills Friday. Lawmakers debated for 12 hours before giving initial approval to the bills, setting up the final

recorded votes Monday. During the debate Friday, Vice President Joe Biden called four Democrats, including two in moderate districts, to solidify support for the measures.

Democratic Rep. Dominick Moreno, who represents a district in suburban Denver, was among the four lawmakers. He said Biden "emphasized the importance of Colorado's role in shaping national policy around this issue."

Castle Rock Republican Rep. Carole Murray brought up Biden's calls during Monday's debate, saying she didn't appreciate "East-coast politicians" trying to influence Colorado legislators.

Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper supports the expanded background checks, and thinks gun buyers should pay for them. He also said he may support limits on the size of magazines, if lawmakers agree to a number between 15 and 20. He said he hasn't decided whether to support banning concealed firearms on campuses and stadiums.

Republicans say students



State Rep. Rhonda Fields (D-Colo.), co-sponsor of gun-control bills, speaks at the state Capitol in Denver. Limits on the size of ammunition magazines and universal background checks passed the Colorado House on Monday, February 18, 2013.

(Matthew Staver/The New York Times)

should have the right to defend themselves.

"Do not disarm our young adults in general and our young women in particular on our college campuses in the name of a gun-free zone," Republican Rep. Jim Wilson said.

The gun debate highlights a fundamental philosophical difference between

many Democrats and Republicans.

"I resent the implication that unless we all arm ourselves we will not be adequately protected," said Dickey Lee Hullinghorst, the Democrats' leader in the House.

Republican Rep. Christ Holbert became emotional while explaining his oppo-

sition to the bills. He said he understood Fields cares about the bills, because of her district and because her son was shot and killed in 2005.

"But I care passionately about the United States Constitution and the constitution of this state, and the oath that we have taken," Holbert said. □

Coast Guard: Triumph fire caused by fuel leak

KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A leak in a fuel oil return line caused the engine-room fire that disabled a Carnival cruise ship at sea, leaving 4,200 people without power or working toilets for five days, a Coast Guard official said Monday.

Cmdr. Teresa Hatfield addressed the finding in a conference call with reporters and estimated that the investigation of the disabled ship, the Carnival Triumph, would take six months.

Hatfield said the Bahamas — where the ship is registered, or flagged — is leading the investigation, with the Coast Guard and National Transportation Safety Board representing U.S. interests in the probe. The vessel was in international



The disabled Carnival Cruise Line ship Triumph is seen docked at the cruise ship terminal in Mobile, Ala.

(Meggan Haller/The New York Times)

waters at the time of the incident.

She said investigators have been with the ship since it arrived Thursday in Mobile. Since then, she said, inter-

views have been conducted with passengers and crew and forensic analysis has been performed on the ship.

She said the crew respond-

ed appropriately to the fire. "They did a very good job," she said.

In an email after Monday's conference call, Coast Guard spokesman Carlos Diaz described the oil return line that leaked as stretching from the ship's No. 6 engine to the fuel tank.

A Carnival Cruise Lines spokesman said in an email Monday that the company agrees with the Coast Guard's findings about the fire source.

Andrew Coggins, a former Navy commander who was a chief engineer and is now a professor at Pace University in New York and an expert on the cruise industry, said the fire could potentially have been serious. "The problem is the oil's under pressure," he said. "What happens in

the case of a fuel oil leak where you have a fire like that is it leaks in such a way that it sprays out in a mist. In the engine room you have many hot surfaces, so once the mist hits a hot surface it will flash into flame." If the crew hadn't reacted quickly and the fire suppression system hadn't worked properly, he said, "the fire from the engine room would have eventually burned through to other parts of the ship." Engine room fires that can't be suppressed generally result in the loss of the entire ship, he said.

The Triumph left Galveston, Texas, on Feb. 7 for a four-day trip to Mexico. The fire paralyzed the ship early Feb. 10, leaving it adrift in the Gulf of Mexico until tugboats towed it to Mobile. □

Nebraska Republican won't seek senate re-election

JONATHAN WEISMAN

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WASHINGTON — Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb., who is in his first term, announced Monday that he will not seek re-election next year, the fifth lawmaker to bow out of a Senate that has become increasingly polarized and dysfunctional. Johanns, a soft-spoken former Nebraska governor and secretary of agriculture in the George W. Bush administration, appeared well positioned to be re-elected and was not on any Democratic target list. But last year, he angrily criticized conservative groups that tried to step in and influence the Senate election in his state. And his efforts as part of the "Gang of Eight" to broker a bipartisan deficit reduction accord proved fruitless.

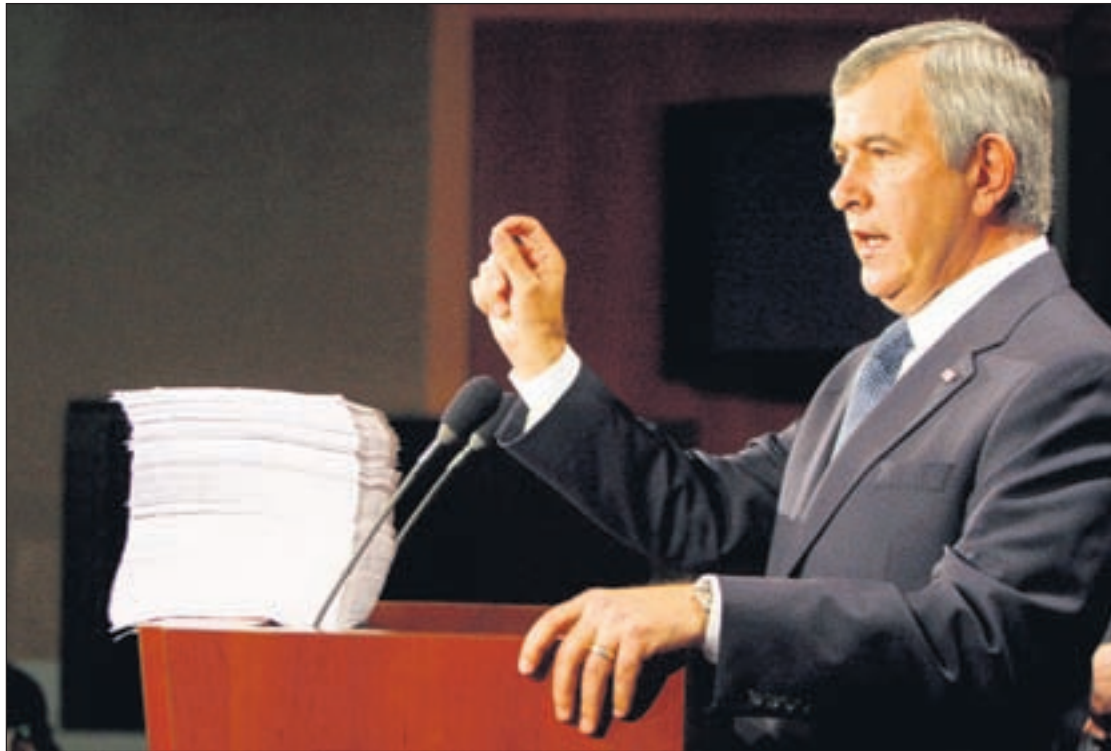
"With everything in life, there is a time and a season. At the end of this term,

we will have been in public service over 32 years," Johanns wrote in a letter to his constituents with his wife,

Stephanie. "Between the two of us, we have been on the ballot for primary and general elections 16

times and we have served in eight offices. It is time to close this chapter of our lives."

With the announcement, Republican attention immediately turned to Nebraska's two-term Republican governor, Dave Heineman, as a potential candidate. He cannot run for re-election in 2014 because of term limits. If Heineman decides to run for the Senate, he could face a primary challenge, though the seat seems likely to remain Republican. Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas, the newly appointed chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, gave no hint of political concern about Johanns' retirement. Nebraska's other Senate seat came open last year with the retirement of a Democrat, Ben Nelson, and despite the return of former Sen. Bob Kerrey as the Democratic candidate, a relative newcomer, Deb Fischer, the Republican standard-bearer, cruised to victory. □



Sen. Mike Johanns (R-Neb.) gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington. Johanns announced Feb. 18, 2013 that he will not seek re-election in 2014, making him the fifth lawmaker to bow out of a Senate that has become increasingly polarized and dysfunctional. (Luke Sharrett/The New York Times)



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Democrats' 'guru' Cecil to lead new senate charge

JONATHAN WEISMAN

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WASHINGTON — After two grueling election cycles, Guy Cecil, the brains behind the Democrats' improbable Senate showings in 2010 and 2012, was expected to set aside his political combat boots for tasseled loafers and a sinecure somewhere in this city that pays handsomely for success.

Then his old boss, Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado, reluctantly took the helm of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, looking at another brutal map for Democrats eager to stay in control of Congress' upper chamber. He had one demand: Keep Guy Cecil aboard.

"It was critically important that Guy stay in the job," said Bennet, now reunited with Cecil, the former chief of staff who spent the last months of his 2010 campaign sleeping in the senator's Colorado basement. "He is just excellent at what he does."

Cecil's return as executive director of the committee is notable in a city accustomed to political consultants cashing in for big money "downtown" — at lobbying firms and with influence peddlers off Capitol Hill. In 2010, Cecil helped engineer Bennet's successful defense of his seat, one of the unexpected wins that kept Democrats in control of the Senate even as the party suffered historic defeat in the House. Most assumed Democrats would lose the Senate as the 2012 season began. With Cecil directing forces, the party gained two seats. After the struggles of 2010 and 2012, the road ahead for Senate Democrats does

not look much smoother. Incumbents are likely to face tough races in the red states of Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Montana and North Carolina. Democratic retirements in Iowa and West Virginia have opened new fronts for Republicans eager to avoid a third strike in their quest to regain Senate control. Both parties are awaiting a decision by Sen. Tim Johnson, a Democrat, about whether to run again in South Dakota.

Beyond that, freshman Democrats, swept to power in the Obama wave of 2008, face their first re-election campaigns in the swing states of Colorado, Minnesota, New Hampshire and Oregon. Only once in 75 years has the president's party not lost seats in the midterm election of his second term.

Cecil's goal: "To hold the majority, that's it," he says. Rob Jesmer, who in 2012 was Cecil's opposite number at the National Republican Senatorial Committee, called him "smart and relentless."

"I've got a lot of respect for him," he said.

At times last cycle, Cecil courted controversy. In Wisconsin, he backed the candidacy of Rep. Tammy Baldwin, a liberal lesbian from Madison, when many Democrats wanted a more moderate voice from a rural corner of the state. Baldwin won, beating a four-term governor, Tommy Thompson, the Republicans' candidate of choice.

In Missouri, Cecil encouraged Sen. Claire McCaskill to pull off one of the most clever feats of the campaign cycle, an advertisement just days before the Republican primary that



Guy Cecil, political director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and the brains behind the Democrats' improbable Senate showings in 2010 and 2012, in Washington. After two grueling election cycles in a row, Cecil, expected to set aside his combat boots, is staying on board.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

"blasted" Rep. Todd Akin as the most conservative, most vehemently anti-Obama candidate in the Republican field. The effort was seen as a boost for Akin, the opponent she preferred.

"He understood the complicated needle I had to thread, running a disciplined campaign and seeing if we could end up with a general election candidate we could beat," McCaskill said.

Bennet sees his executive director as something of a not-so-secret weapon. The usual cycle of wholesale staff turnover at the campaign committees robs them of experience and "wisdom." □



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Burger King plans apology after Twitter hack

CANDICE CHOI
JOSHUA FREED
AP Business Writers

Somebody hacked Burger King's Twitter account on Monday, posting obscene messages and changing its profile picture to a McDonald's logo.

The tweets stopped after a little more than an hour, and Burger King said it had reached out to Twitter to suspend the account. A Twitter spokesman did not immediately respond to a phone message left on Monday.

Burger King, which usually tweets several times a week, said it was working to get the account back up. Typical tweets promoted sales on chicken sandwiches, or asked how many bites it takes to eat a chicken nugget.

But just after noon EST (1700 GMT) on Monday, someone tweeted via Burger King's account, "We just got sold to McDonalds!" They also changed the icon to rival McDonald Corp.'s golden arches and the account's background

picture to McDonald's new Fish McBites.

About 55 tweets and retweets followed over the next hour and a quarter, including some that con-

of Burger King's Twitter account was a relatively mild example of cybersecurity problems, which are causing increasing concern in Washington and for indus-

breached, while several NBC websites were briefly hacked in November. White House officials and some lawmakers are pursuing legislation that would

no other social media accounts were affected, said Bryson Thornton, a spokesman for Miami-based Burger King Worldwide Inc. Its social media team and an outside agency manage the Twitter account, but Thornton declined to say how many people knew the account's password. He said they hope to have it working again soon, and will post a statement on Facebook later Monday apologizing for the tweets. Twitter acknowledged on Feb. 1 that cyber attackers may have stolen user names and passwords of 250,000 users. It said at the time that it notified users of the breach.

Competitors were sympathetic.

McDonald's responded on Twitter that it empathized with its Burger King counterparts. "Rest assured, we had nothing to do with the hacking."

"My real life nightmare is playing out" on Burger King's twitter feed, wrote Wendy's social media worker Amy Rose Brown. □



This frame grab taken Monday, Feb. 18, 2013, shows what appears to be Burger King's Twitter account after it was apparently hacked. Starting just after noon Eastern time on Monday, the fast-foot company's Twitter picture was changed to a McDonald's logo, and the account tweeted that it had been sold to rival McDonald's.

(AP Photo)

tained racial epithets, references to drug use and obscenities. The account tweeted: "if I catch you at a wendys, we're fightin!" Monday's appropriation

try. Media outlets including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post have all said this year that their computer systems were

make it easier for the government and industry to share information on how to defend against hacking. BurgerKing didn't know who hacked the account, and



SPECIAL

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Second Course

SOUP OF THE DAY
home made

Third Course

STEAK DIANE
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PICCATA MILANAISE
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CHICKEN FLORENTINE
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Texas:

Russians investigating adoptee's death

N. MERCHANT
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Russian authorities have blamed "inhuman treatment" for the death of a 3-year-old boy adopted by an American family, but Texas officials say they are still investigating claims that the child was abused before his death.

Russia's Investigative Committee said Monday that it had questions about the death of an adoptee authorities identified as Maxim Kuzmin.

The committee is the country's top investigative agency. Texas Child Protective Services spokesman Patrick Crimmins confirmed the agency had received a report on Jan. 21 of the death of a 3-year-old named Max Shatto, and that the Ector County Sheriff's Office in

West Texas was investigating.

Crimmins said CPS had received allegations of physical abuse and neglect, but had not determined whether those allegations were true. Sgt. Gary Duesler, spokesman for the Ector County Sheriff's Office, said no arrests have been made and authorities are waiting for autopsy results.

An obituary for Max Shatto published Jan. 26 by the Midland Reporter-Telegram says he was born on Jan. 9, 2010, in the town of Pskov, near Russia's western border with Estonia. The boy lived with a family in Gardendale, about 350 miles west of Dallas, before his death on Jan. 21, according to the obituary. The boy's listed adoptive parents, Alan and Laura Shatto, did not return a

phone message Monday. The death comes weeks after Russia announced it was banning all American adoptions in retaliation for a new U.S. law targeting alleged Russian human-rights violators. The ban also reflects lingering resentment over the 60,000 Russian children adopted by Americans in the past two decades, of which at least 19 have died.

Russian Foreign Ministry official Konstantin Dolgov said in a statement that the boy's death was "yet another case of inhuman treatment of a Russian child adopted by American parents."

Duesler said he could not immediately confirm or deny Russian allegations of abuse. Most U.S. government offices were closed Monday in observance of a federal holiday. □

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Brian Hayes, second from right, a minister of state in Ireland's government, tours burnt-out areas of the Breezy Point neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York. Breezy Point, which has remained one of the most proudly Irish communities in America, has become something of a cause celebre in Ireland. (Michael Kirby Smith/The New York Times)

Emerald roots: Irish adopt Queens enclave

SARAH MASLIN NIR
© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK — For generations the residents of Breezy Point, Queens, have clung to their emerald roots. The gated community they called the Irish Riviera — or to those who prefer the language of the old world, “cois farraige,” Gaelic for “beside the sea” — has remained one of the most proudly Irish communities in America. So when Hurricane Sandy tore through the coastal enclave, sparking one of the most destructive residential fires in the city's history and leaving behind hundreds of charred or flooded houses, all that love for the homeland was suddenly reciprocated, roaring back from across the Atlantic. Breezy Point has become something of a cause celebre in Ireland, its plight an urgent topic in newspaper headlines and radio dispatches more than three months since the storm.

Gaelic rock stars threw fundraisers, Irish companies sent money and other donations, the country's consulate bused thousands of volunteers through Breezy Point's gates for “Irish Days of Action” and pop stars made pilgrimages. “It has become a huge Irish-American issue,” said Aine Sheridan, 53, the executive producer of the Adrian Flannelly show on the Irish Radio Network USA, which has covered the recovery of Breezy Point and the city's Irish nonstop since October. “It's another county of Ireland.” The government has pledged a total of \$320,000 in aid to places across the region that were hit by the storm. “The Irish connection is so strong, it's totally appropriate,” said Brian Hayes, a minister of state in Ireland's government, while touring burnt-out sections of Breezy Point in early February. “This isn't a hard sell at home.” Hayes was accompanied

that day by a convoy of strapping present and former players in the country's beloved Gaelic Games. The 18 athletes spent several days sawing joists in the damaged Catholic Club and sleeping on cots in the Rockaway Point Volunteer Fire Department's firehouse. In a ceremony heralded by bagpipers of the Breezy Point Catholic Club Pipes and Drums in spats and tufted beanies, the area's athletic center, the St. Thomas More Parish Center, which had been destroyed by the storm, was officially reopened. The basketball court, paid for in part by a \$50,000 gift from the Irish government, is emblazoned with a giant shamrock. “It makes you feel very wanted,” said Tim Devlin, 50, a contractor and former Gaelic Games athlete who lives in Breezy Point and organized the players' trip. “We don't feel so alone after the storm.” □

Vermont maple syrup grade changes may sweeten sales

DAVE GRAM
Associated Press
MONTPELIER, Vermont (AP)

— Would fancy grade maple syrup by any other name taste as sweet? Lawmakers in Vermont are pondering that question as they consider whether to drop the U.S. state's traditional maple labeling system in favor of an international one. The change pits tradition versus a desire to be a bigger player in world markets. Vermont is the No. 1 maple syrup producer in the United States, but its unique labeling standards put it at odds with the other big producers, including Canada.

The state Senate last week passed and sent to the House a measure to drop fancy, grade A medium amber, dark amber and grade B. (Fancy is the lightest and mildest, while grade B is the darkest and has the strongest maple flavor.) In their place would be several types sharing a grade A label, with descriptive phrases following: golden color and delicate taste; amber color and rich taste; dark color and ro-

bust taste; very dark color and strong taste.

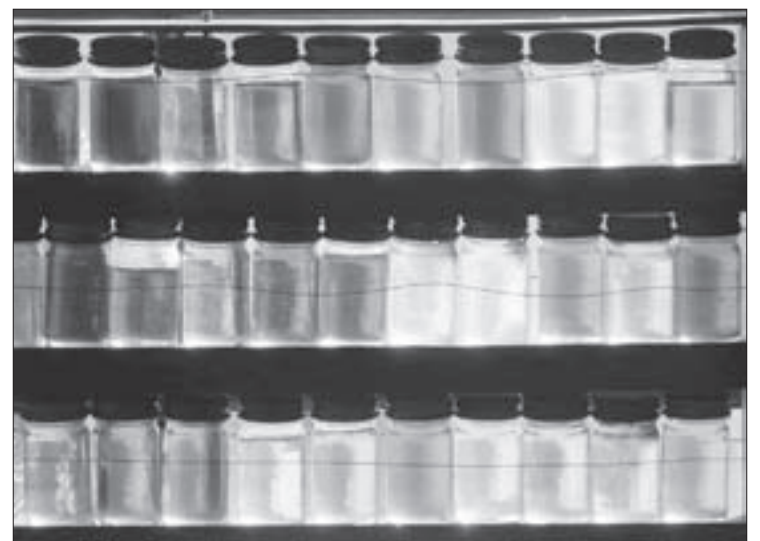
Sen. Kevin Mullin initially argued against the measure before reluctantly going along.

“We should not be following everyone else in lock-step and ... giving them the ability to try to pretend that syrup made in another state is anywhere near as good as the syrup made in Vermont,” he said.

Vermont will maintain its distinct branding by labeling its syrup as coming from the state. Connoisseurs will continue to appreciate that Vermont regulations will continue to require boiling sap for longer than is the case elsewhere, producing a slightly denser product, Ross said. But to continue using a separate grading system would lead to consumer confusion, the secretary added.

Doug Bragg, an eighth-generation syrup producer, said he was taking the changes in stride.

“Most of our customers are asking, why do we have to do this? There's a logic to it, no question about it,” Bragg said. “It's still annoying, though.” □



In this Friday, Feb. 15, 2013 photo, 18 different grades of maple syrup are displayed in East Montpelier, Vt. Vermont lawmakers are considering whether to drop the state's traditional maple labeling system in favor of an international one.

(AP Photo/Toby Talbot)

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Report: Islamist adviser to Egypt's president quits

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An ultraconservative Islamist adviser to Egypt's president resigned Monday in solidarity with a fellow aide who was fired amid allegations of abuse of office.

The resignation of Bassam Zarka, who is a member of the Salafi Al-Nour party, is the latest sign of tension between President Mohammed Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood and its Islamist ally ahead of parliamentary elections expected in the months ahead.

The public disagreement comes as the country's Supreme Constitutional court rejected an election law presented to it by the Islamist-dominated parliament, and asked for a number of articles to be amended, a move that could delay the vote and prolong an already tense political atmosphere.

No date has been set for the elections yet. Morsi and the Brotherhood see the vote as a way to restore stability as the country reels under growing economic problems and increasingly volatile social discontent.

Al-Nour, which emerged from obscurity to win the second largest bloc of votes in Egypt's parliamentary elections in 2011 — just behind the Brotherhood-led bloc — has joined voices critical of Morsi and the Brotherhood for what it describes as their attempt to monopolize power. □

EU ministers reject arming Syrian rebels

DON MELVIN
GEIR MOULSON
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union foreign ministers announced Monday that they were keeping current sanctions against Syria in place for three months, rejecting attempts to alter an embargo on the country so that arms could be funneled to rebels fighting President Bashar Assad. However, in an apparent nod to the U.K., which had argued that the rebels should be exempted from the embargo, the ministers adopted a non-specific amendment "so as to provide greater non-lethal support and technical assistance for the protection of civilians."

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said that the meaning of that would be defined in meetings among the representatives of member countries to the union. She denied to reporters that the wording was a political fudge.

Still, British Foreign Secretary William Hague appeared to claim victory, saying many countries had not even wanted to discuss changing the embargo at a meeting in November.

"Most states were opposed to any amendment of the embargo and today we have amended it in a very important way, in a couple of very important ways," Hague said.

He added that further amendments could be made three months from now, an indication that Britain might continue its

push to arm the rebels.

"We will have to have that debate at the time, and I think that will depend on whether any political progress is now made in Syria and depend on the continued loss of life which

hopes on the mediation efforts of Lakhdar Brahimi, the joint U.N.-Arab League envoy to Syria.

"There is no shortage of arms in Syria," Luxembourgish Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn said. "With more



Syrian rebels stand in the rubble of damaged buildings due to government airstrikes, in the neighborhood of Karam Tarab near Aleppo International Airport, in Aleppo, Syria.

(AP Photo/AMC)

continues on an appalling and unacceptable scale," Hague said.

Several EU foreign ministers said, in strong terms, that they opposed sending any more arms into the ravaged country.

That view was supported Monday by a new report by a U.N.-appointed panel that said Syria's civil war is becoming increasingly sectarian and the behavior of both sides is growing more and more radicalized. The report urged the international community to curb the supply of weapons and anti-government forces to part with foreign fighters.

A number of ministers said they were placing their

arms, there are more killed, more atrocities."

The U.N. says nearly 70,000 people have been killed in Syria's conflict since the revolt against Assad began in March 2011.

Despite the appalling violence, diplomatic efforts continue. Mouaz al-Khatib, the president of the opposition coalition, has said he would negotiate with representatives of Syria's governing party — though not with Assad or members of his security services.

Brahimi, the international envoy, says that offer "challenges the Syrian government to fulfill its often-repeated assertion that it is ready for dialogue and a peaceful settlement."

The report released in Geneva on Monday by the U.N.-appointed Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria made for alarming reading.

Discussing events since July, it said human rights abuses by anti-government groups did not "reach the intensity and scale of those committed by government forces and affiliated militia." But it said rebels have continued to endanger civilians by placing military targets in civilian areas.

The commission, set up by the U.N. Human Rights Council, hasn't been able to enter the country and said that "significantly limited" its ability to investigate all alleged abuses — particularly those committed by armed anti-government groups. The report was based on 445 interviews with victims and witnesses. "The war has become colored by sectarianism, permeated by opportunistic criminality and aggravated by the presence of foreign fighters and extremist groups," the panel said.

It said the number of foreigners fighting in the conflict has increased but still accounts for "a small proportion" of anti-government groups — though it remains hard to assess with accuracy their numbers. Still "their expertise and experience in matter of IEDs and insurgency warfare have brought a substantial contribution to the opposition's tactical effectiveness," the report said. □

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Germany:

Tighter controls needed on meat products

DAVID RISING
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German officials on Monday vowed tighter controls on meat products and stronger penalties for companies that violate food-labeling rules as more items marketed as "all beef" were pulled from supermarket shelves after testing positive for horse meat.

Germany, Europe's largest economy, is one of several countries across the continent investigating the improper use of horsemeat and mislabeling of meat products in a still-unfolding scandal.

Consumer Protection Minister Ilse Aigner and her state counterparts announced a 10-point plan seeking to allay Germans' fears after five national supermarkets recalled lasagna, chili, tortellini and goulash — all with traces of horse meat. Most recently, German discount supermarket Lidl on Monday said it had recalled Combino brand "Beef Tortelloni," sold at its stores in Austria, after tests showed it contained horse meat.

Aigner said Germany will step up testing and look for any meat not clearly noted on the label — not just horse. "I can't say this is the end," she told report-

ers. "We have to count on other cases being discovered."

In addition to implementing a European Union action plan on testing meat products, some of Germany's other plans include making sure consumers are more quickly informed as soon as a company has detected that its product may be mislabeled, and facilitating better information flow between state and federal agencies.

Horse meat has turned up across Europe in frozen supermarket meals such as burgers and lasagna, as well as in beef pasta sauce, on restaurant menus, in school lunches and in hospital meals. Millions of products were pulled from store shelves in Britain, Ireland, France, Spain, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway after the scandal broke, and supermarkets and food suppliers were told to test processed beef products for horse DNA.

European officials have said the scandal is the result of fraud, and possibly an international criminal conspiracy to pass off cheap horse meat as more expensive beef. And although officials say that eating horsemeat is not generally dangerous, the scandal

has upset people in places where such meat traditionally is not eaten.

France agreed on Monday to partially restore the

In a decision just ahead of a meeting between French government officials and workers at the Spanghero company, French Agricul-

ground meat, sausages and some cooked goods after inspectors found nothing amiss there over the weekend.

However, frozen goods to be sold and processed elsewhere, which were the center of questions over whether Spanghero officials deliberately passed off horse meat as beef, remain off limits for the company.

The French agriculture minister reiterated at a news conference the allegation of fraud at the plant in southern France — but said the workers "aren't responsible." The government's final report is due Friday.

The director general of Spanghero, Olivier Gemin, expressed relief at the partial reopening of the plant, but noted in an interview with RTL radio that the scandal risks lasting damage for the company, which employs some 300 people. □



French farmers hold a placard as they demonstrate in support of the cooperative Lur Berri group, which includes Spanghero society, which is identified by French Consumer Affairs Minister Benoit Hamon as a major culprit in the use of horse meat in food products, in Aicirits, southwestern France, Monday, Feb. 18, 2013. The Spanghero company denied wrongdoing.

(AP Photo/Bob Edme)

health certification of a meat seller at the heart of the uproar.

ture Minister Stephane Le Foll said he would allow it to resume production of

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ECB's Draghi pushes for European bank bailout fund

JUERGEN BAETZ
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Central Bank President Mario Draghi said Monday the 17-country eurozone must move swiftly to set up a joint fund to restructure and wind down troubled banks, claiming it is a necessary step to stabilize the financial system. The fund should be financed by levies on financial institutions to ensure it will not have to tap taxpayers' money over the medium term, guaranteeing that "resolution costs are first and foremost borne by the private sector," he told European lawmakers. The fund must be able to make timely and impartial decisions on how best to deal with a troubled bank, independently of national considerations, he said.

That would help to break the "perverse link between sovereign and banks," Draghi said, referring

to the current situation where rescuing troubled banks drags down eurozone nations with already weak public finances. Such a joint fund, however,

is met with skepticism in countries like Germany, Europe's biggest economy, where politicians fear their countries' money could be used to bail out banks in

have yet to be hammered out. "We have to find the proper equilibrium between national and centralized supervision," Draghi told the

account as an important influence on economic growth and inflation, he said. The euro's appreciation combined with the sluggish economy risk pushing inflation down more than expected, he added.

"We will assess (the situation) according to price stability," he said.

Draghi also reiterated the ECB's economic outlook, warning that the beginning of 2013 will remain weak but that the bank expects "a gradual recovery later this year."

The ECB forecasts the eurozone's economy will shrink 0.3 percent in 2013, with a slow recovery only starting later in the year.

In a positive sign, Germany's central bank said Monday that the eurozone's biggest economy is on track to avoid a recession as it is showing signs of

growth in the first three months of the year.

A growing German economy could help speed up the recovery of the wider eurozone, which is in recession.

Governments are cutting spending and raising taxes to reduce heavy levels of debt, slowing their economies.

Growth is key for solving the debt crisis, since it shrinks the size of country's debts relative to their economy and increases revenue from income and business taxes. □



Cypriot FM Vassos Chiyarly, left, talks with chairman of the Eurogroup and Dutch FM Jeroen Dijsselbloem, center, and President of the European Central Bank Mario Draghi, during the Eurogroup meeting, at the European Council building in Brussels. (AP Photo/Yves Logghe)

other countries.

European leaders have called on the European Commission, the executive arm of the 27-nation European Union, to draft a proposal for such a fund, as many details of its planned implementation remain unclear.

Draghi said the fund is the logical and necessary step to complete a banking union once the ECB takes over the oversight of the bloc's banks. That step is planned take effect next year, but many details on the relevant legislation

lawmakers.

In the parliamentary hearing, Draghi also brushed aside worries over a so-called currency war, in which countries try to lower their national currencies' values to gain a competitive edge in exports. The euro has recently risen sharply against the dollar and the yen, among other currencies, but Draghi said those movements remain within the recent historical average.

The exchange rate is not among the bank's policy targets, but it is taken into

Spain:

Woman sets herself on fire in bank

MADRID (AP) — Authorities say a Spanish woman walked into a bank branch in a small eastern city, doused herself with flammable liquid and set herself ablaze.

A regional government statement citing police in Almassora says the woman was taken by helicopter to

be treated in Valencia for burns that Spanish media reported covered nearly half of her body. Authorities did not give a reason for why the woman decided to set herself on fire on Monday.

But Spain is in financial crisis, and banks are being blamed for a wave of

mortgage foreclosures, homeowner evictions and at least five mortgage default-related suicides in recent months.

Outcry over the evictions and suicides has prompted the ruling party to agree to debate possible mortgage default law changes in Parliament. □

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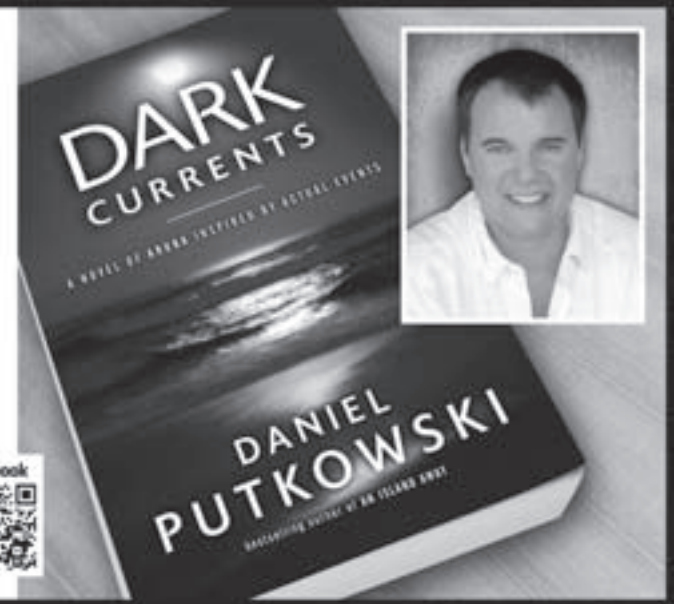
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Benjamin Netanyahu's ice cream budget causes political firestorm

ISABEL KERSHNER

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JERUSALEM – His foreign minister had to resign after being accused of fraud. He was sharply criticized for his government's handling of Prisoner X, who committed suicide in prison. And now this, which made front-page news in Israel this weekend: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stands accused of dipping into state coffers for an ice cream budget of \$2,700 a year. Pistachio, it was revealed by the proprietors of a gourmet ice cream parlor a couple of blocks from the prime minister's official residence, is his favorite (presumably not made with the Iranian kind of nut). Mrs. Netanyahu, they said, appears to prefer French vanilla.

In a country facing severe cuts in government spending after an election that focused largely on the struggling middle class, and with the Netanyahus' supposed taste for the high life already under scrutiny, news of the prime minister's weakness for artisanal pistachio ice cream raised a national outcry.

Shelly Yachimovich, the leader of the center-left Labor Party, summed it up as a Marie Antoinette moment and noted that Netanyahu was the one who always spoke of cutting the fat.

"If there's no bread, eat ice cream," she wrote on her Facebook page, adding, "Shall we laugh or cry?"

The story was broken by a Hebrew financial newspaper and then flagged on the front page of the

canceled at once," officials at the prime minister's office said in a statement. "Prime Minister Netanyahu



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu heads the weekly cabinet meeting in his office in Jerusalem.

(AP Photo/Uriel Sinai)

weekend edition of a popular mainstream Israeli newspaper, Yediot Aharanot. On Monday, the liberal Haaretz newspaper devoted an editorial to the larger issue of spending in the prime minister's residence, complaining of a "royalist culture that has taken root there during Netanyahu's regime."

Netanyahu hurried to control the damage.

"From the moment that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu became aware of the agreement his office had signed with the ice cream parlor for supplying ice cream for hosting at his official residence, he gave an instruction for it to be

said that this was an exorbitant expenditure that he found unacceptable."

If the owners of the ice cream shop, Metudela, were feeling any heat, they did not show it.

Orders from the prime minister's residence would come in about twice a month, said Hillel Farkash, a co-owner. One of the staff would phone to place the order and a security guard would pick it up.

Serena Kanfi, who is married to the other owner, Rafael Kanfi, said the Netanyahus would take 3 or 4 kilograms of ice cream (about 6 1/2 to 8 1/2 pounds) at a time if there were guests at the residence. □

Moscow: Lawmaker's body found in a cement-filled barrel

ANDREW ROTH

© 2013 New York Times

MOSCOW – The body of a missing city legislator and construction tycoon has been found in a private basement garage on the city's outskirts, inside a rusted metal barrel filled with cement, the police said Monday.

Russian television showed investigators removing the body of the man, Mikhail Pakhomov, 36, on Sunday evening from the garage, 20 miles east of Moscow, where the police said he had been tortured and killed over an outstanding \$80 million loan.

The killing recalled the brutal violence that routinely emerged from business disputes in the 1990s. Pakhomov, who was reported missing last Tuesday, was a promising young star in United Russia, the ruling party founded by President Vladimir V. Putin, and had served as head of a construction company that was reported to have won large contracts to develop utilities and infrastructure in several cities.

Sergei B. Ivanov, Putin's chief of staff, last year called housing and utilities services one of Russia's most corrupt sectors. Many lucrative contracts are doled out on the municipal level, and large sums of money are at stake.

Politicians who have tried to battle graft in the system have met with violence. In 2011, Yevgeny Dushko, the

mayor of Sergiyev Posad, was gunned down in his driveway in a contract killing that investigators said was most likely linked to his disputes with the city's utility contractors.

The police have identified the likely mastermind of Pakhomov's killing as Yevgeny Kharitonov, a former deputy minister for housing and utilities services in the Moscow region. They said Kharitonov had Pakhomov followed since last November and was pressing the legislator to repay a debt of \$80 million. Kharitonov has been arrested, but so far, he has been charged only with kidnapping. Seven other people were also arrested.

Pakhomov was reported missing on Feb. 12 from Lipetsk, an industrial city 270 miles southeast of Moscow, where he served as a regional lawmaker. Witnesses said three men had dragged him from his car, and the police said they found traces of blood at the scene.

The search continued for almost a week, until people questioned by the police led investigators to the body.

"A similar event has never happened with a VIP in our city," read an editorial published in Gorod48, a news website based in Lipetsk. "Even in the 'evil '90s' nobody disappeared: businessmen were killed right where they lived or worked." □

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UK cyclists killed in Thailand

GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A British couple's round-the-world cycling odyssey ended in tragedy when both of them were killed in a road accident in Thailand. Peter Root and Mary Thompson, who had been chronicling their journey in a blog, died Wednesday when they were hit by a pickup truck in a province east of Bangkok, Thai police said Monday.

The couple, both 34 and from Guernsey in the Channel Islands, left Britain in July 2011 and had cycled through Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia and China. The trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the couple, who met in art school and spent six years saving money and planning

their journey, Peter's father Jerry Root told the Associated Press in an interview. "They were both inspirational," Jerry Root said. "They didn't just talk about it, they did it. I couldn't be prouder of them." He said they were both experienced cyclists who knew the rigors and risks of extended bicycle travel. "They were camping wild, as they called it," he said. "What helps me is to think of how happy they were with each other. They were leading the life they want-

ed to. It was the happiest, the most fruitful of lives." The couple had been posting photos and details of their trip on the website Two on Four Wheels. They also had many followers on Twitter and Facebook who were tracing their journey and vicariously enjoying their adventure, which included a trip through remote parts of Central Asia. A video they posted from that part of the journey shows them camping in



British couple Peter Root and Mary Thompson, both 34, were killed in Thailand late last week in a road accident during their round-the-world cycling odyssey. The couple from Britain's Guernsey in the Channel Islands, left Britain in July 2011 and had cycled through Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia and China, a journey chronicled on the website Two on Four Wheels, until tragedy struck.

(AP Photo/Jerry Root)

the desert, riding through hills, stopping to swim in rivers and lakes, and braving heavy snowstorms. They also cycle through tense situations as armed conflict breaks out during their journey through Tajikistan. There is also footage showing Thompson suffering a gash to her knee after an apparent collision with a truck. The couple look tanned, joyous and relaxed — if a bit wind-blown — in the footage. It is apparent life on the road agreed with them.

"They never talked about the trip as having a destination or a deadline or a time scale," said Ben Thompson, Mary's brother. "They didn't have firm plans, they had rough ideas. They just loved people. They were always dragging people to the campfire to share a story and a beer and some food." After Southeast Asia, the couple were planning to make their way to New Zealand for a brief respite, he said. Thai Police

Lt. Col. Supachai Luang-sukcharoen said Monday that investigators found their bodies, their bicycles and their belongings scattered along a roadside, along with a pickup truck that crashed between some trees.

Supachai said the truck driver, 25-year-old Worapong Sangkhawat, was seriously injured in the crash. He told police his truck hit the cyclists as he was reaching down to pick up a cap from the vehicle's floor, Supachai said. The driver has been released on bail and faces charges of causing death by dangerous driving, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail. Police said the couple's bodies were being kept at a rescue unit in Chachoengsao, 20 miles (30 kilometers) east of Bangkok, until they could be repatriated. □



Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., at the Capitol in Washington. A delegation of US lawmakers led by Sen. Leahy arrived in Cuba on Monday, February 18, 2013. (AP Photo/J.S. Applewhite)

US lawmakers visit Cuba

PAUL HAVEN
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — A delegation of American lawmakers led by Sen. Patrick Leahy arrived in Cuba on Monday to gauge the island's economic changes and stress the importance of freeing a jailed American whose detention has chilled relations between the two countries. The trip, which included five senators, was the first to the Communist-run island by high-level U.S. politicians since President Barack Obama's re-election in November.

It comes a year after another group of legislators led by Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, came to Cuba and met with President Raul Castro. Last year's delegation also visited Alan Gross, an American jailed since 2009 for illegally distributing communications equipment on the island while on a U.S.-funded democracy-building program. In their meetings, the lawmakers will stress that freeing Gross, who is serving a 15-year sentence, is a crucial prerequisite for improved ties, a State Department official told The

Associated Press. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, lacking authorization to comment publicly.

"Nothing would make me happier if, when we leave in a couple of days, for Alan Gross to be on the plane with us," Leahy said following the group's arrival, before adding: "I don't think that is likely to happen." Leahy said the aim of the trip is to work toward better relations between the two countries, and that both sides would have to give ground. He said many Americans agree U.S. policy in place for decades has become anachronistic. "There is a growing sense by many in the U.S. who do not have a Cold War attitude that they would like to see a change," he said. The United States has maintained an economic embargo on the island for 51 years, since shortly after Fidel Castro came to power. Rep. Jim McGovern, a Massachusetts Democrat, said the lawmakers would "like to see relations improve," adding that he hoped to see the day when all U.S. citizens could travel to Cuba freely. □



Tuscany Residence opens model condo on site



PALM BEACH – A landmark in the life of Tuscany Residence was celebrated just recently when the sales gallery moved from its temporary location at the South Beach Centre to the actual site in the Noord area, the island's best neighborhood, just across the Ritz Carlton construction site, reports Project Manager, Reinier Kooi of Toscana Development NV. The new residential project under construction brings luxury island living to a new level. Within the walls of the residence, 78 comfortable apart-

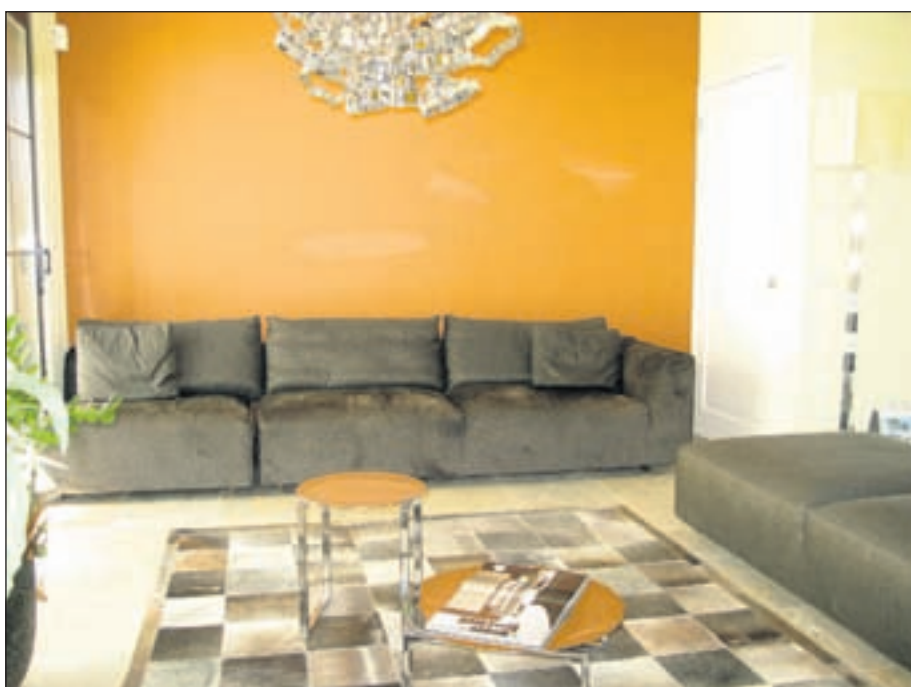
ments, 65 interconnected villas and 10 detached villas are being built. The buildings vary greatly in layout, as the project offers no less than twenty-four different models to choose from. Beautiful Italian architecture combined with tropical landscaping, will create a pleasant Mediterranean atmosphere in the residence, located just 600 meters from the beach, and adjacent to the Bakval neighborhood. Upscale European Alno kitchens and Banjolux bathrooms

will carry that luxurious theme onto the interiors. Toscana Development NV invites you to visit Tuscany Residence to help you find the home that fits your lifestyle. Since groundbreaking, Tuscany Residence Aruba has enjoyed an unprecedented reception and indications are that this trend will continue through the sell-out phase of the project. The project is currently fully fenced and two model houses completed. With all infrastructures for utilities in place and the terrain



parceled and marked, Tuscany Residence is gearing up to the high-season of 2013. Visit the model condo, any day, seven days a week, just call for an appointment and free pick up, or ask your favorite broker to help get you there. Tuscany Residence Aruba apartments and villas are

offered at pre-construction prices, for a while longer, and while the world is recovering from the recent economic decline, Aruba's real estate market continues to offer great investment opportunities to those prepared to take the plunge, and go ahead and live their dreams. □





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Valentine's Day celebrated at Amazonia Churrascaria



PALM BEACH – The holiday dedicated to love was celebrated at Amazonia Churrascaria in style, by locals and visitors, who all opted to show their affection and appreciation to each other over genuine Brazilian Steakhouse dinner. The famed Palm Beach steakhouse, welcomed visitors with roman-

tic dinners and got everyone, especially the staff, all dressed in red, in the mood for celebration. Amazonia's Valentine's Day Dinner started off with a sampling from the gourmet 40-item seasonal salad bar, which was followed by a parade of 16 different cuts of beef, chicken, pork and lamb, grilled to

perfection and carved tableside by the restaurant's roaming gauchos. All delicious meats were accompanied by signature side dishes. And desserts were also popular on Valentine's Day, especially the shared ones! Pictured here, Amazonia in the mood for love and friendship. □



Beauty On The Beach

Diana and Anabela

Sisters Diana and Anabela are in Aruba with their parents. It is their first time in Aruba and they love it.



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At the Radisson Aruba Beach Resort:

ATA honors group of loyal visitors from Brazil!



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a big group of loyal and friendly visitors from Manaus, Brazil at the Radisson Aruba Beach Resort. This group consisting of 30 honorees is visiting Aruba for many years with their entire family, some for 30 years, others for over 10 and 20 years consecutively. The group leader, Mr. Acram Isper from Acram Turismo of Manaus, Brazil, tells Aruba Tourism Authority representative Ernest Giel

that he will continue bringing large groups of tourist from Brazil to Aruba for many more years. He said some of the reasons Brazilian people love Aruba very much are because of its very friendly people, beautiful beaches, restaurants and casino's, and Aruba has a very relaxing atmosphere for the Brazilian visitors that makes them feel at home.

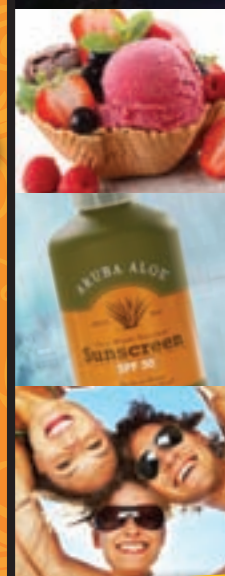
A special thanks goes to the Raddisson guest relation manager Germaine Wever and her

staff for preparing this unforgettable event for the visitors, and Marouska Heyliger from ATA for preparing all the certificates for this big group of honorees.

The certificates were presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism by Ernest Giel from ATA. The Aruba tourism Authority is very pleased to honor this group of loyal visitors from Brazil, and hopes to see them for many more years here on our One Happy Island! □

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CASINO AND SHOPS

At the Westin Resort & Casino:

US Figure Skating Champion Johnny Weir visits Aruba

PALM BEACH — Recently, three-time US Figure Skating Champion Johnny Weir vacationed on the island, enjoying the hospitality of the Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba for the second year in a row. Joined by his husband, Victor Voronov, Johnny took advantage of the time to refresh and renew before gearing up for an intense training regime in preparation for the next Winter Olympics in 2014.



Johnny is pictured here at the resort's Manager's Cocktail Party, where he took the time to mingle with guests of the Westin and pose for a few pictures with management and guests. Johnny also spent time with Aruba's Olympic Committee, providing valuable insight and motivation for the island's program. □



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In this Aug. 23, 2005 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers owner Jerry Buss watches the WNBA Los Angeles Sparks play the Minnesota Lynx in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Jerry Buss, L.A. Lakers' owner, dies

ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

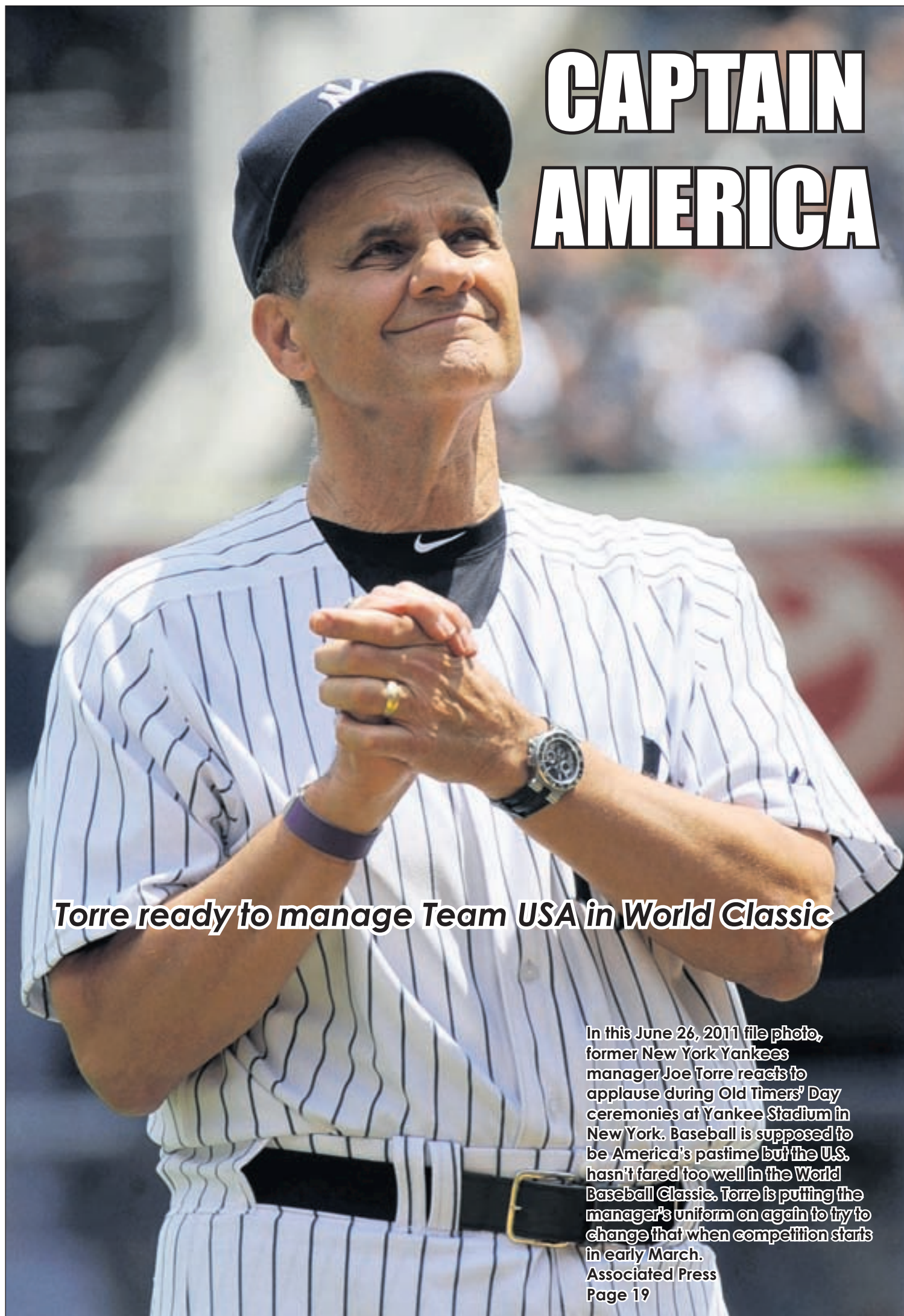
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jerry Buss, the Los Angeles Lakers' playboy owner who shepherded the NBA franchise to 10 championships from the '80s Showtime dynasty to the Kobe Bryant era, died Monday, his assistant said.

Buss died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, said Bob Steiner, his assistant. He was 80.

He'd been hospitalized for cancer, but the immediate cause of death was kidney failure, Steiner said.

Under Buss' leadership since 1979, the Lakers became Southern California's most beloved sports franchise and a worldwide extension of Hollywood glamour. Buss acquired, nurtured and befriended a staggering array of talented players and basketball minds during his Hall of Fame tenure.

Continued on page 21



CAPTAIN AMERICA

Torre ready to manage Team USA in World Classic

In this June 26, 2011 file photo, former New York Yankees manager Joe Torre reacts to applause during Old Timers' Day ceremonies at Yankee Stadium in New York. Baseball is supposed to be America's pastime but the U.S. hasn't fared too well in the World Baseball Classic. Torre is putting the manager's uniform on again to try to change that when competition starts in early March.
Associated Press
Page 19

Sloane Stephens loses in 1st round in Dubai

MICHAEL CASEY
AP Sports Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Sloane Stephens lost in the first round of the Dubai Championship on Monday, the latest setback for the rising American star who reached the Australian Open semifinals. Stephens, who has reached a career high 16 in the world rankings since knocking out Serena Williams in Melbourne, lost to Sorana Cirstea of Romania 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.

"It was a rough day, and I think she obviously played some good tennis," Stephens said. "Every match isn't going to go the way you want it, and obviously I got a little frustrated. Things happen, but, I mean, no need to dwell on it."

Eleventh-ranked Marion Bartoli also advanced, coming from a set down to beat Klara Zakopalova of the Czech Republic 3-6, 6-4, 6-1. She was joined by former No. 1 Ana Ivanovic, who overcame a sore right shoulder to beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia 6-3, 7-6 (5).

Laura Robson, the British up-and-comer, joined Stephens in being eliminated after losing to 97th-ranked wild-card entry Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (6).

Last week, the 19-year-old Stephens lost to Zakopalova in the third round of the Qatar Open after wasting two match points. She smashed her racket afterward. Monday's match was much the same. Stephens led 5-4 when the 30th-ranked Cirstea hit two double-faults, but the Romanian broke back. Stephens broke a second time and won the set.

More poor serving from Cirstea allowed Stephens to get the early break in the second, but then the Romanian settled down, breaking an increasingly frustrated Stephens twice to win the set. At one point, Stephens let out a scream



Sloane Stephens from the U.S. returns the ball to Sorana Cirstea of Romania during the first day of Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Feb. 18, 2013.

Associated Press

after a missed shot and then was warned by the chair umpire for racket abuse when she slammed her racket down after hitting a forehand wide to fall behind 5-3. Cirstea broke Stephens three times in the third to go up 5-2 and finished it off when the American hit a weak return and then a backhand volley long. "I started the second quite positive and I knew I had to be just a little more careful at the key points if I would turn it around," Cirstea said. After beating an injured Williams at the Australian Open, Stephens was being billed as the future of American tennis — even though she hasn't yet won a professional tournament. "The first week at home was really tough. Everyone was like, 'Oh, my God, I want to see you,'" Stephens said last week in Doha. "Of course I had people tweeting me and stuff. And I wanted to make time for my friends and see

like the people who I was supposed to see."

Some of her recent woes can be blamed on health problems.

She pulled out of the Fed Cup against Italy this month after aggravating an abdominal muscle injury and picking up a stomach virus.

Still, Stephens said little has changed from Australia and she hasn't let all the hype get the best of her.

"Obviously it's really tough week in and week out playing perfect tennis and just really being able to execute," Stephens said. "Some days you're going to be on the court and it's not just going to turn out the way you want. Like today, I didn't play my best tennis, and last week I didn't play my best tennis, but you just kind of got to move on." The 18-year-old Putintseva, who only broke into the top 100 this month, broke Robson twice to win the first set. □

Raonic beats Haas for 3rd straight SAP Open title



Milos Raonic holds the trophy after the final of the SAP Open tennis tournament against Tommy Haas in San Jose, Calif., Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013. Raonic won 6-4, 6-3.

Associated Press

JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

SAN JOSE, California (AP)

— Milos Raonic won his third consecutive SAP Open on Sunday, beating Tommy Haas 6-4, 6-3 for the title in the final year of the Bay Area tournament. Raonic has never lost in 12 matches in this event and became the first player in the Open era that began in 1968 to win this tournament three straight times and first overall since Tony Trabert did it from 1953-55. Raonic won the final tournament here in similar fashion to his first two, using an overpowering serve to control the match. He fired

an ace on his first serve of the match and was never threatened on serve. He had 19 aces and finished the week facing just a single break point.

Raonic wrapped up the match when Haas sent a backhand wide to lose serve for the third time in the match, and the Canadian went into the players box to hug family and friends.

Perhaps no one will miss this tournament as much as Raonic. Since coming here for the first time in 2010, he has never lost and has three of his four career titles in San Jose. But he won't get another as the tournament that dates to 1889 is being moved to Memphis next year after the owners of the two events sold the higher-profile Memphis tournament to a group from Brazil.

"A lot has happened here," Raonic told the crowd after the match. "I've grown a lot here. I've had my best matches here. ... It's something special."

Raonic's performance at this event has truly been staggering. In 12 matches over three years, Raonic has never lost a single set and has been broken on serve in just two of 124 service games. He faced only three break points the past two years, saving two of them. □

U.S. Indoor Championships Top-seeded Cilic moves to 2nd round

CLAY BAILEY

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)

— Top-seeded Marin Cilic of Croatia was taken to three sets Monday before defeating Ivan Dodig 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 in the opening round of the U.S. National Indoor Championships.

Cilic ranked 12th, got out slowly in the first set, but controlled the final two en route to the second round in the match that lasted 1:46.

Cilic was the only seeded player on the men's side of the tournament to play on Monday. Third-seeded John Isner and Sam Querrey, the tournament's No. 4 seed, are expected to open play Tuesday.

On the women's side, top-seeded Kirsten Flipkens of Belgium defeated Shahar Peer of Israel 6-2, 6-2, while second-seeded Sofia Arvidsson of Sweden downed Slovakia's Jana Cepelova 6-4, 6-4. □

Torre ready to manage Team USA in World Classic

BOB BAUM

AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — The game is supposed to be America's national pastime, but the United States has not fared well in the World Baseball Classic.

Joe Torre is putting his manager's uniform back on to lead Team USA in this year's competition, but he cautions that there are reasons the U.S. has not won, or even made it to the title game, in the first two editions of the worldwide competition.

Torre, speaking Monday at a news conference in Phoenix, said players usually use spring training to get ready physically for the long major league season, slowly working in the mental edge along the way. But with the World Baseball Classic, they are asked to get that competitive edge in a hurry against countries that take this competition very seriously.

"I think a big part of it is the mental preparation for a postseason type of atmosphere," Torre said.

Japan won the first two championships, beating Cuba in the 2006 final and South Korea in 2009.

There is more than a little grumbling among managers who lose players for two or three weeks at a crucial time when they are supposed to be putting together

a cohesive team for the coming big league season. But, officially, Major League Baseball is a big supporter of this event, so that mutes the criticism. Those players don't just go to Team USA, but to Venezuela, Mexico, Japan, Canada, even The Netherlands.

The team hit the hardest this year is the Milwaukee Brewers, who will lose 14 players during spring training, 11 of them from their 40-man roster.

"I get why a player would want to do it. I understand that," Brewers manager Ron Roenicke said. "And we're fine with them going and doing that, but it just happens that we're getting hit with a lot of guys. We're missing both catchers. It's really important to us. We'll just have to deal with it."

Torre said he had the same reaction back in 2006 when the first World Baseball Classic was held.

"I'm manager of the Yankees and I'm saying, 'Oh my goodness, what is this all about?' Because they're taking our players away."

Now, he steps away from his duties as executive vice president of baseball operations in the commissioner's office to try to build a winning team while at the same time giving the players, especially the pitchers,



In this Dec. 3, 2012 file photo, Joe Torre answers questions at the baseball winter meetings in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

the same amount of work they'd get if they stayed in spring training. Torre has enlisted retired pitching great Greg Maddux to help him.

"Greg has talked to each and every one of them to get their ideas about what they want to get accomplished," Torre said.

Team USA will have a workout on March 4 in Scottsdale, followed by exhibition games against the Chicago White Sox and Colorado Rockies before beginning round-robin play March 8 against Mexico. Canada and Italy are the other two teams in the

group. Team USA's round-robin games are at Chase Field, home of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The second round will be held in Miami, with the semifinals and finals set for AT&T Park in San Francisco. Torre said he has spoken to every player involved with the team.

"I wanted to gauge not only the interest but the excitement of playing with 'USA' across your chest," he said.

He said every player, including a few who wound up bowing out, said that was the greatest entice-

ment to participate.

"I feel pretty comfortable with the team we've put together," Torre said, "based on the fact, ability for one, and the fact that I think they're going to be ready to do this when we need to."

The U.S. squad includes outfielders Ryan Braun, Adam Jones, Giancarlo Stanton, Shane Victorino and Ben Zobrist; infielders Willie Bloomquist, Brandon Phillips, Jimmy Rollins, Mark Teixeira and David Wright; and catchers J.P. Arencibia, Jonathan Lucroy and Joe Mauer. □

Future races canceled in wake of Pistorius charge

GERALD IMRAY

AP Sports Writer

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Oscar Pistorius' agent has canceled all future track races so the double-amputee Olympian can focus on the murder charge against him, underscoring the possibility the disabled sports icon might never again run competitively on his famous carbon fiber blades. Pistorius is defending himself against allegations he murdered his model girlfriend by shooting her several times in his upscale house on Valentine's Day morning.

Reeva Steenkamp died from gunshot wounds suf-

fered inside Pistorius' home in the predawn hours of Thursday. Pistorius was arrested and charged with her murder the same day. His family denies he murdered her.

"I have decided that following these tragic events that we have no option but to cancel all future races that Oscar Pistorius had been contracted to compete in," agent Peet van Zyl said in a written statement late Sunday night.

A few hours earlier, Van Zyl had visited his athlete at a police station in the South African capital, Pretoria, where he is being held in custody in a red-bricked,

one-story building with green metal fencing.

Pistorius has been there since Friday following the shocking developments at his villa in a gated community in Pretoria's eastern suburbs where Steenkamp was shot dead. Her death and Pistorius' arrest stunned South Africans, who revered Pistorius for his humble nature and success at overcoming adversity to become an international star, despite having his lower legs amputated as a baby. Pistorius still had "overwhelming support" from his fans, Van Zyl said as he left Brooklyn police station, but the agent steered

away from a question from a reporter on what Pistorius' emotional state was now like following the death of his girlfriend and a possible realization that his entire career was in ruins.

Pistorius' sponsors — including big-name brands Nike and eyewear manufacturer Oakley — were also sticking by him, Van Zyl said. But that could depend on the outcome of a possibly lengthy murder trial.

"Regarding sponsors and partners, I can confirm that at this point in time, all parties are supportive and their contractual commitments are maintained," Van Zyl's In Site Athlete

Management company said. "They have said they are happy to let the legal process takes its course before making any change in their position."

The Beaverton, Ore.-based Nike Inc. and Foothill Ranch, Calif.-based Oakley Inc. did not immediately respond to messages from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Pistorius was quickly arrested and charged with murder Thursday, with prosecutors saying at his first court appearance a day later that they would pursue a more serious premeditated murder charge, which carries a life sentence. □

NHL Roundup

Blackhawks do it again, streak reaches 15

The Associated Press
CHICAGO (AP) — Brent Seabrook and Jonathan Toews each scored a goal and added an assist to help lead the Chicago Blackhawks over the Los Angeles Kings 3-2 on Sunday, extending their season-opening points streak to 15 games.

Patrick Sharp also scored for the Blackhawks (12-0-3), who matched the 1984-85 Edmonton Oilers for the second-longest season-opening points streak in NHL history. Chicago is one away from the league record, set by Anaheim in 2006-07, and will try to match the mark Tuesday against Vancouver.

Mike Richards scored two power-play goals in the third period to pull the Kings within one after Chicago had built a 3-0 lead.

Blackhawks backup goalie Ray Emery made 25 saves. He lost a bid for his first shutout in more than three years when Richards connected 56 seconds into the third period.

Sharp, who led Chicago with 33 goals last season, ended a 10-game drought without a score.

PENGUINS 4, SABRES 3
BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Defenseman Paul Martin scored with 2:04 left and Pascal Dupuis had two goals and an assist to lift Pittsburgh to a victory over Buffalo.

Sidney Crosby also scored and had two assists, including a pass that set up Martin's goal. Pittsburgh (11-5-0) won its third straight and improved to 8-2 in its past



New Jersey Devils goaltender Martin Brodeur makes a save during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Ottawa Senators Monday, Feb. 18, 2013, in Newark, N.J.
Associated Press

10 games to move ahead of idle New Jersey atop the Eastern Conference standings.

The Penguins were forced to rally after squandering a 2-0 lead. Dupuis tied it at 3 with 5:17 left before Martin got his second of the season off a deflection in front of the net.

Thomas Vanek had a goal and an assist, and Steve Ott and Cody Hodgson also scored for Buffalo.

BLUES 4, CANUCKS 3, SO
VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — T.J. Oshie and Andy McDonald each scored in regulation and in the shootout to lead St. Louis over Vancouver.

Patrik Berglund also scored for the Blues, who closed a

3-0 road swing after a five-game skid.

Blues rookie goaltender Jake Allen made 28 saves and stopped the Canucks' Ryan Kesler and Alex Burrows in the shootout.

Kesler and Henrik Sedin had their first goals of the season, and Mason Raymond also scored in regulation for Vancouver, which has lost two straight after winning six in a row.

The Blues led 3-2 lead early in the third before Raymond tied it on a power play with 1:47 left.

RANGERS 2, CAPITALS 1
NEW YORK (AP) — Derek Stepan's power-play goal early in the third period snapped a tie and completed New York's rally past

Washington. Washington, which lost to New York in the second round of last year's playoffs, had been 11-5-2 in its last 18 regular-season games against the Rangers. New York is 5-1-1 in its past seven games.

Carl Hagelin tied it for the Rangers in the second period after defenseman John Carlson put Washington ahead in the first.

Henrik Lundqvist stopped 27 shots for his seventh win. Braden Holtby was busier for Washington and made 38 saves.

WILD 3, RED WINGS 2
ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Dany Heatley, Jason Zucker and Torrey Mitchell all scored in the second period to rally Minnesota over Detroit.

It was Minnesota's first regulation win since Jan. 29 and just the second time it scored at least three goals in regulation over the last nine games. Damien Brunner and Pavel Datsyuk scored for Detroit, which has lost three straight for the first time since March 10-21 of last season.

After Heatley snapped a nine-game scoring drought to make it 2-1, Zucker went coast-to-coast and scored his first NHL goal to tie it. Mitchell scored off a faceoff 30 seconds later.

BRUINS 3, JETS 2
WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Brad Marchand scored 36 seconds into the third period to lift Boston to a win over Winnipeg.

Tyler Seguin and Daniel Paille also scored, and Patrice Bergeron had two assists for the Bruins (9-2-2). Tuukka Rask stopped 22 for Boston to earn his seventh win of the season.

Alexandre Burmistrov had a goal and an assist for Winnipeg (5-8-1), while Evander Kane recorded his fourth goal of the season and first in nine games.

Ondrej Pavelec made 23 saves for the Jets, who lost their third straight and fourth in a row at home — the longest home losing streak for the team moved from Atlanta prior to last season.

FLAMES 4, STARS 3
DALLAS (AP) — Steve Begin, Matt Stajan and Roman Horak each scored their first goals of the season in the third period and Calgary overcame a two-goal deficit to beat Dallas.



U.S. National freestyle wrestling coach Zeke Jones, right, and his team members arrive at the Imam Khomeini airport in Tehran, Iran, early Tuesday morning, Feb. 19, 2013, to attend World Cup tournament.

Associated Press

USA Wrestling formalizes Olympic committee

The Associated Press

USA Wrestling has formalized plans for a committee charged with restoring Olympic wrestling.

The organization announced Monday that the group will be known as the Committee for the Preservation of Olympic Wrestling. As noted by USA Wrestling executive director

Rich Bender last week, the committee will be chaired by former world champion Bill Scherr.

Leading U.S. wrestling supporter Mike Novogratz will serve as the group's spokesman.

USA Wrestling says the committee's goals will be to work with FILA, wrestling's international governing

body, and top wrestling nations to restore the sport to the 2020 Olympic program. The group is also seeking to "mobilize and energize" the American public to support their cause.

The International Olympic Committee has recommended that wrestling not be included as a core sport in 2020. □



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West beats East 143-138 in NBA All-Star Game

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Kevin Durant scored 30 points, while game MVP Chris Paul had 20 points and 15 assists as the Western Conference beat the East 143-138 on Sunday in the NBA All-Star game.

Blake Griffin finished with 19 points and Kobe Bryant blocked LeBron James twice in the final minutes, that duo joining Paul to turn the West's victory into something of an L.A. story. James scored 19 points but shot only 7 of 18, contrasting with his recent hot shooting for the Miami Heat. Bryant blocked two of his shots late.

Carmelo Anthony led the East with 26 points and 12 rebounds.

"We played really good defense at the end of the game as a team," Durant said. "Kobe was really going with the ball. It's tough to stop LeBron, but he did his best. He was able to block a few of his shots. But CP did a really good job of keeping us in

the game."

The first dunk of the game came 16 seconds in, Paul throwing a pass to Griffin as part of the West's 7-0 start. The West led after each of the first three quarters, though was never ahead by more than eight points through three periods.

They finally pushed it into double figures early in the fourth fueled by former Oklahoma City teammates Russell Westbrook and James Harden, but couldn't put it away until a late run behind the guys from the city of Los Angeles — who along with Lakers center Dwight Howard gave Los Angeles teams all but one of the West's starting spots.

Paul hit two 3-pointers, Bryant made a layup, and his block of James led to Durant's dunk that made it 136-126. Griffin had one last forceful dunk to help close it out, throwing a pass to himself off the backboard and climbing high to make it 142-134.

The Bryant-James duel was a good one between

the two players who are most often compared to Michael Jordan, who turned 50 on the day.

"It was all in good spirit, man. It was just two guys that love to compete, love to go at it. So I had a lot of fun," James said.

Bryant finished with only nine points but had eight assists. Griffin shot 9 of 11 from the field and didn't miss until trying to violently throw one down from a few feet away from the basket.

Indiana's Paul George scored 17 and Kyrie Irving had 15 for the East.

Not everybody had it so easy. Chris Bosh shot two airballs in the first quarter and was booed, tossed up another in the second, and had Tony Parker dribble the ball through his legs on defense. He was pulled after Bryant blew right by him for a layup.

Bosh finished 3 of 9. Wade had 21 points on 10-of-13 shooting, the best performance of the three Heat players in the starting lineup. □



West Team's Chris Paul of the Los Angeles Clippers holds the most valuable player trophy after the NBA All-Star basketball game Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013, in Houston. Associated Press

Jerry Buss

Continued on from page 17

Few owners in sports history can even approach Buss' accomplishments with the Lakers, who made the NBA finals 16 times through 2011 during his 32 years in charge, winning 10 titles between 1980 and 2010. The Lakers easily are the NBA's winningest franchise since he bought the club. Working with front-office executives Jerry West and Mitch Kupchak, Buss spent lavishly to win his titles despite lacking a huge personal fortune, often running the NBA's highest payroll while also paying



In this Aug. 17, 2010, file photo, Los Angeles Lakers owner Jerry Buss smiles during an NBA basketball news conference in Bell Gardens, Calif. Buss, the Lakers' playboy owner who shepherded the NBA franchise to 10 championships, has died in Los Angeles. He was 80. Associated Press

high-profile coaches Pat Riley and Phil Jackson.

Always an innovative businessman, Buss paid for the Lakers through both their wild success and his own groundbreaking moves to raise revenue. He co-founded a basic-cable sports television network and sold the naming rights to the Forum at times when both now-standard strategies were unusual, adding justification for his induction into the Pro Basketball Hall of Fame in 2010. Magic Johnson and fellow Hall of Famers Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and James Worthy formed lifelong bonds with Buss during the Lakers' run to five titles in

nine years in the 1980s, when the Lakers earned a reputation as basketball's most exciting team with their glamorous Showtime style.

Jackson then led Shaquille O'Neal and Bryant to a threepeat from 2000-02, rekindling the Lakers' mystique, before Bryant and Pau Gasol won two more titles under Jackson in 2009 and 2010.

Although Buss was proudest of his two hands full of NBA title rings, he also was a scholar, Renaissance man and bon vivant who epitomized California cool — and a certain Los Angeles lifestyle — for his entire public life. □

Doctors who don't speak out a chronic problem

BARRY MEIER

© 2013 New York Times

The note sent by a doctor to several executives at Johnson & Johnson was blunt: An artificial hip sold by the company was so poorly designed that the company should slow its marketing until it understood why patients were getting hurt.

The doctor, who also worked as a consultant to Johnson & Johnson, wrote the note nearly two years before the company recalled the device in 2010. And it was far from the only early warning those executives got from doctors who were paid consultants. Still, the company's DePuy orthopedic unit plowed ahead, and those consultants never sounded a public alarm to other doctors, who kept implanting the device.

The memos have recently emerged during the trial of the first of more than 10,000 patient lawsuits brought against Johnson & Johnson over the hip implant device, the Articular Surface Replacement, or ASR. The company has insisted that it acted responsibly in determining when to halt its

sale. But plaintiffs' lawyers have offered a portrait of executives who put profits ahead of patients, even scuttling a plan to fix the implant because it cost too much.

medical issue: While experts say that doctors have an ethical obligation to warn their peers about bad drugs or medical devices, they often do not do so.

"Questioning the status quo

sons, he and other experts said. They may fear that speaking out could get them sued or believe that a product problem was an anomaly or their fault.

Doctors also have an aver-

patient reactions, doctors usually do not make such filings, saying they are too busy for the paperwork.

"The standard in the medical community is not to report," said Dr. Robert Hauser, a cardiologist who, along with a colleague, warned other doctors in 2005 about a defective heart implant.

There is another reason doctors may choose to remain silent, experts say: their financial ties to a drug or device maker.

Traditionally, doctors have brought problems to the attention of colleagues by conducting research and publishing their findings in a medical journal. The advantage of that system helps ensure the credibility of study data and protects a researcher from random attack, said Dr. David Blumenthal, the president of the Commonwealth Fund, a group that studies health policy issues.

But getting a study published can take a year or two; some Johnson & Johnson consultants did publish studies about the hip's flaws, but they largely appeared after it had been recalled. □



Dr. Antoni Nargol with failed hip implants, DePuy's Articular Surface Replacement, or ASR, that he removed from patients, in Hartlepool, England. While experts say that doctors have an ethical obligation to warn their peers about bad drugs or medical devices, they don't always do so.

(Andrew Testa/The New York Times)

It might not be surprising to find that executives acted to protect a company's bottom line. Still, the Johnson & Johnson episode is also illuminating a broader

in medicine is not easy," said Dr. Harlan Krumholz, a professor at Yale School of Medicine.

Physicians may remain silent for a variety of rea-

sion to reporting. For instance, while the Food and Drug Administration relies on physicians to help monitor product safety by alerting the agency to adverse

Violent television affects children's behavior, study says

CATHERINE SAINT LOUIS

© 2013 New York Times

Experts have long known that children imitate many of the deeds – good and bad – that they see on television. But it has rarely been shown that changing a young child's viewing habits at home can lead to improved behavior.

In a study published Monday in the journal *Pediatrics*, researchers reported the results of a program designed to limit the exposure of preschool children to violence-laden videos and television shows and increase their time with educational programming that encourages empathy. They found that the experiment reduced the children's aggression toward others, compared with a group of children who were allowed to watch whatever

er they wanted.

"Here we have an experiment that proposes a potential solution," said Dr. Thomas N. Robinson, a professor of pediatrics at Stanford, who was not involved in the study. "Giving this intervention – exposing kids to less adult television, less aggression on television and more prosocial television – will have an effect on behavior." While the research showed "a small to moderate effect" on the preschoolers' behavior, he added, the broader public health impact could be "very meaningful."

The new study was a randomized trial, rare in research. The researchers, at Seattle Children's Research Institute and the University of Washington, divided 565 parents of children ages 3 to 5 into two groups. Both

were told to track their children's media consumption in a diary that the researchers assessed for violent, didactic and prosocial content, which they defined as showing empathy, helping others and resolving disputes without violence.

The control group was given advice only on better dietary habits for children. The second group of parents was sent program guides highlighting positive shows for young children. They also received newsletters encouraging parents to watch television with their children and ask questions during the shows about the best ways to deal with conflict. The parents also received monthly phone calls from the researchers, who helped them set television-watching goals for their preschoolers.

The researchers surveyed the parents at six months and again after a year about their children's social behavior. After six months, parents in the group receiving advice about television-watching said their children were somewhat less aggressive with others, compared with those in the control group. The children who watched less-violent shows also scored higher on measures of social competence, a difference that persisted after one year. Low-income boys showed the most improvement, though the researchers could not say why. Total viewing time did not differ between the two groups.

"The take-home message for parents is, it's not just about turning off the TV; it's about changing the channel," said Dr. Dimitri A. Chris-

takis, the lead author of the study and a professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington.

"We want our children to behave better," Christakis said, "and changing their media diet is a good way to do that." Until she began participating in Christakis' trial, Nancy Jensen, a writer in Seattle, had never heard of shows like Nickelodeon's "Wonder Pets!" featuring cooperative team players, and NBC's "My Friend Rabbit," with its themes of loyalty and friendship.

At the time, her daughter Elizabeth, then 3, liked "King of the Hill," a cartoon comedy geared toward adults that features beer and gossip. In hindsight, she said, the show was "hilariously funny, but completely inappropriate for a 3-year-old." □

Arms vendors turn to cyber security as sales drop

MALIN RISING

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The world's largest arms vendors are expanding in the cybersecurity sector as austerity measures weigh on sales of traditional weapons, a Swedish peace research institute said Monday.

Sales by the 100 largest arms producing companies, excluding Chinese companies, fell by 5 percent to \$410 billion in 2011, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said in its annual review of the industry.

The drop was mainly due to austerity measures and the withdrawal of troops

from Iraq and Afghanistan, SIPRI said, but pointed out that cybersecurity has remained a privileged spending area for governments despite budget cuts. "Cybersecurity has be-

come a top national security issue and there has been a lot of discussion about that over the last years," SIPRI cybersecurity expert Vincent Boulanin said. "Countries are willing

to gear up to face potential cyberthreats from other countries or private actors."

Cybersecurity first became a major issue following the attack against Estonia in 2007 that used thousands of infected computers to cripple dozens of government and corporate websites, Boulanin said. Since then, numerous attacks have occurred that have increased the demand for security products, including the recent Chinese hacker attacks against The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal.

Boulanin said arms dealers are taking advantage of these developments to expand into new fields and are acquiring smaller companies to get hold of the necessary technical expertise. The ventures mainly involve services for data and network protection, testing and simulation, training and consulting and operational support.

SIPRI also said U.S.-based

Here's SIPRI's list of the top 10 arms vendors

in 2010 (2009 ranking in parenthesis):

1. Lockheed Martin, U.S., \$36.27 billion (1).
2. Boeing, U.S., \$31.83 billion (3).
3. BAE Systems, Britain, \$29.15 billion (2).
4. General Dynamics, U.S., \$23.76 billion (5).
5. Raytheon, U.S., \$22.47 billion (6).
6. Northrop Grumman, U.S., \$21.39 billion (4).
7. EADS, Trans-European, \$16.39 billion (7).
8. Finmeccanica, Italy, \$14.56 billion (8).
9. L-3 Communications, U.S., \$12.52 billion (9).
10. United Technologies, U.S., \$11.64 billion (10). □



U.S. Cyber Command Commander, National Security Agency Director and Central Security Service Chief General Keith Alexander gestures during a news conference in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013, to give an update on President Barack Obama's Cybersecurity policy.

Associated Press

Lockheed Martin remained the biggest arms vendor in 2011, with arms sales of \$36.27 billion, while Boeing overtook Britain's BAE Systems as the second largest weapons merchant. □

LG to release full HD smartphone in S. Korea



Models pose with LG Electronics' new smartphone Optimus G Pro during a press conference in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Feb. 18, 2013.

Associated Press

YOUKYUNG LEE

AP Technology Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— LG Electronics Inc. said Monday its new smartphone with a full high-definition screen will go on sale in South Korea this week before hitting shelves in Japan in April.

The Optimus G Pro smartphone features a 5.5-inch screen that packs over 2

million pixels, or twice as many as smartphones with HD screens.

The new Android-powered phone sports other upgrades including a camera that can shoot full HD videos and photographs.

The South Korean company, Sony Corp., HTC Corp. and other phone manufacturers are trying to make high-resolution screens a

key feature in their new smartphones this year.

Full HD screens are more common in televisions but smartphone makers began to embrace them this year amid cutthroat competition. One in every two smartphones is made by Samsung Electronics Co. or Apple Inc., creating a hardscrabble fight among the second-tier of makers. LG executives said their current goal is elevating the reputation of the Optimus brand after turning around the company's mobile communications business following years of losses.

The Optimus G Pro is available at 968,000 won (\$894) without in South Korea without a mobile carrier contract.

The model will be on display at the annual mobile fair in Barcelona, Spain kicking off next week.

Once the world's No. 3 mobile phone maker, LG was the fifth-largest mobile phone maker by shipments in 2012 after Samsung, Nokia Corp., Apple and ZTE Corp., according to market research firm IDC. □

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Mr. J.M. (Jeannot) de Cuba is pleased to inform you that as per February 1, 2013 he has continued his practice under the name De Cuba Law Office N.V.



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HK Disney turns first profit since opening

KELVIN CHAN
AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Disneyland in the southern Chinese city of Hong Kong has turned a profit for the first time since it opened in 2005, as new attractions helped push visitor numbers to a record, theme park officials said Monday. The park earned 109 million Hong Kong dollars (\$14 million) in the year that ended Sept. 29 and its revenue jumped 18 percent to HK\$4.27 billion (\$550 million). The park drew 6.73 million visitors, 13 percent more than the previous year, with guests spending 6 percent more than a year earlier. The struggling park's losses had steadily narrowed from HK\$1.6 billion in 2008, the year it started disclosing financial figures, to HK\$237 million in 2011. Legislators and analysts have blamed the park's poor performance on its small size. It's the smallest of Burbank, California-based Disney's parks worldwide. But the 311-acre (126-hectare) park, set on reclaimed

land on Lantau island, will be a quarter bigger once an expansion is completed later this year. Hong Kong Disneyland's managing director, Andrew Kam, called the park's swing into profit a "significant milestone." "The business has turned a corner," said Kam. He said the park expansion was "the most critical success factor that contributed to our result this year." The \$465 million expansion adds three new attractions that Kam said allowed the park to draw more visitors. Two have already opened, including one based on the "Toy Story" series of movies and another with a Wild West theme called "Grizzly Gulch," which Kam said has become the park's most popular draw. The final phase, "Mystic Point," which has a supernatural theme and is set in a rain forest, is scheduled to open by the middle of the year. Visits by local residents, who accounted for a third of total visitors, rose 21 percent, while those by main-

land Chinese, who make up nearly half of the total, climbed 13 percent. Hong Kong Disneyland opened to great fanfare in 2005, only to miss its attendance targets in the first two years. The occupancy rate at the resort's two hotels, which have 1,000 rooms in total, edged up by 1 percentage point to 92 percent. Kam said the park was looking at the feasibility of

expanding its hotels. Kam shrugged off fears that a Disney theme park under construction in Shanghai will result in increased competition for Hong Kong, saying that new theme parks would only help promote the industry in Asia. Hong Kong's government has a 52 percent stake in the park. The Walt Disney Co. owns the remaining 48 percent. □



Disneyland in the southern Chinese city of Hong Kong has turned a profit for the first time since it opened in 2005. The park said Monday, Feb. 18, 2013, it earned 109 million Hong Kong dollars (\$14 million) in 2012.

(AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

Irish group sells S. Africa media for \$227 million

JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press
JOHANNESBURG (AP) — An Irish media company has sold off its newspaper group in South Africa, including The Star and newspapers in Cape Town, to a local investment group for \$227 million, the firm has announced.

Dublin-based Independent News & Media PLC said the sale, which would require approval from its shareholders and regulators in South Africa, would see its newspapers and other holdings go to a consortium led by Sekunjalo Holdings. That investment firm, with investments in some 70 private and public companies, is led by executive chairman Iqbal Surve, a doctor who once gave medical aid to political prisoners released from Robben Island at the end of the apartheid era.

In a statement issued late Sunday night, Independent News & Media said the deal also required a final agreement signed by both parties. The company declined to elaborate further on terms of the deals. Independent News & Media's South Africa portfolio includes the Johannesburg-based The Star newspaper, a leading daily with a circulation of some 105,000 copies, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations of South Africa. It also includes The Pretoria News and the Cape Times and the Cape Argus, as well as weekly newspapers. The company is the largest newspaper company in the country, Independent News & Media has said, and includes the popular website and portal IOL. The Star's Monday edition quoted Surve as saying that he had a strong personal commitment to editorial independence and that the newspapers would "reflect the views of everybody and ... must support democracy and the growth of the economy." □

Arms vendors turn to cybersecurity as sales drop

MALIN RISING
Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The world's largest arms vendors, including familiar names such as Lockheed Martin, are expanding in the cybersecurity sector as austerity measures weigh on sales of traditional weapons, a Swedish peace research institute said Monday. Sales by the 100 largest arms producing companies, excluding Chinese companies, fell by 5 percent to \$410 billion in 2011, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said in its annual review of the industry. The drop was mainly due to austerity measures and the withdrawal of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, SIPRI said, but pointed out that cybersecurity has remained a privileged spending area for govern-

ments despite budget cuts. "Cybersecurity has become a top national security issue and there has

tial cyberthreats from other countries or private actors." Cybersecurity first became

sites, Boulanin said. Since then, numerous attacks have occurred that have increased the demand for security products, including the recent Chinese hacker attacks against The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. Boulanin said arms dealers are taking advantage of these developments to expand into new fields and are acquiring smaller companies to get hold of the necessary technical expertise. The ventures mainly involve services for data and network protection, testing and simulation, training and consulting and operational support. SIPRI also said U.S.-based Lockheed Martin remained the biggest arms vendor in 2011, with arms sales of \$36.27 billion, while Boeing overtook Britain's BAE Systems as the second largest weapons merchant. □



Arms vendors, including Lockheed Martin, are expanding their cybersecurity sectors as austerity measures weigh on sales of traditional weapons, a Swedish peace research institute said Monday.

(Handout Photo/Lockheed Martin)

been a lot of discussion about that over the last years," SIPRI cybersecurity expert Vincent Boulanin said. "Countries are willing to gear up to face poten-

a major issue following the attack against Estonia in 2007 that used thousands of infected computers to cripple dozens of government and corporate web-

Key Europe indexes gain on heels of Japan's Nikkei

JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Europe's main stock market indexes nosed higher on Monday as investors cautiously contemplated a further fall in value for the Japanese yen, which sent the benchmark Nikkei index surging more than 2 percent.

Analysts predicted a subdued start to the European trading week with voters in Italy and Cyprus to cast ballots next weekend and Wall Street's closure for Presidents Day.

Traders also digested the relative lack of criticism of Japan at a weekend meeting of Group of 20 finance ministers. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has introduced measures that would have the knock-on effect of driving down the yen in a bid to help manufacturers.

After starting the day in negative territory, Europe's main indexes were mixed around midday. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.9 percent to 6,318.65. Germany's DAX climbed 0.4 percent at 7,624.8. France's CAC-40 gained 0.2 percent to 3,667.

In a brief research note Monday, Credit Agricole's global market research department said it expects the markets' focus to remain this week on the prospects for recovery among the 17 European Union countries that use the euro.

An EU economic forecast is expected out on Friday.

Earlier, Germany's central bank said Europe's biggest economy was on track to avoid a recession amid signs of growth in the first three months of the year. The German economy shrank 0.6 percent in the

ing to the Socialist government's increasingly tenuous goal to cut France's state budget deficit to 3 percent of economic output by year-end. France, which officially still expects growth of 0.8 percent this year, has taken deficit-reduction measures — but

tervened" that could possibly scale back the deficit reduction target.

Shares of mining giant Anglo-American skidded 2.9 percent to 19.80 pence in London after police in South Africa said several people were shot and injured as miners from rival

rea's Kospi was marginally higher at 1,981.91.

A lack of G20 criticism for Abe's economic policy appeared to give him a freer hand to pursue Japan's efforts to jolt its manufacturing sector.

"The lack of specificity will mean that the G20 statement will allow further unobstructed" yen weakness in the months ahead, Mitul Kotecha of Credit Agricole CIB said in a market commentary.

The dollar and euro resumed their rise against the Japanese currency. The U.S. greenback fetched 93.96 yen, up 0.46 yen, and the euro also gained 0.46 yen, to 125.43 yen.

Mainland Chinese shares were mixed after a week-long break for Lunar New Year. The Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.5 percent to 2,421.56. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.3 percent to 23,381.94.

Last week, the yen fell to a near three-year low against the dollar and the euro. The yen has been steadily declining since December because of expectations that Japan's central bank would take action resulting in a weakening of the yen. Benchmark oil for March delivery was down 20 cents to \$95.65 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract closed at \$95.86 a barrel on the Nymex on Friday. □



A woman walks by an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo, Monday, Feb. 18, 2013. Japan's benchmark stock index jumped Monday after Group of 20 finance officials avoided directly criticizing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's new government for trying to force down the yen. Other Asian stock markets were mixed.

(AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

fourth quarter of 2012. The European Central Bank predicts the eurozone economy will shrink 0.3 percent in 2013 and only start to recover later this year.

Also Monday, French Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici said he is stick-

the state auditor cautioned last week that the level could in fact rise to 4.5 percent.

Moscovici, speaking to reporters in Paris, said he didn't believe France's credibility would be hurt if "something exceptional in-

unions clashed at one of its platinum mines.

Earlier, many eyes in Asia were on Japan, where the Nikkei 225 index in Tokyo surged 2.1 percent to close at 11,407.87. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.6 percent to 5,063.40. South Ko-

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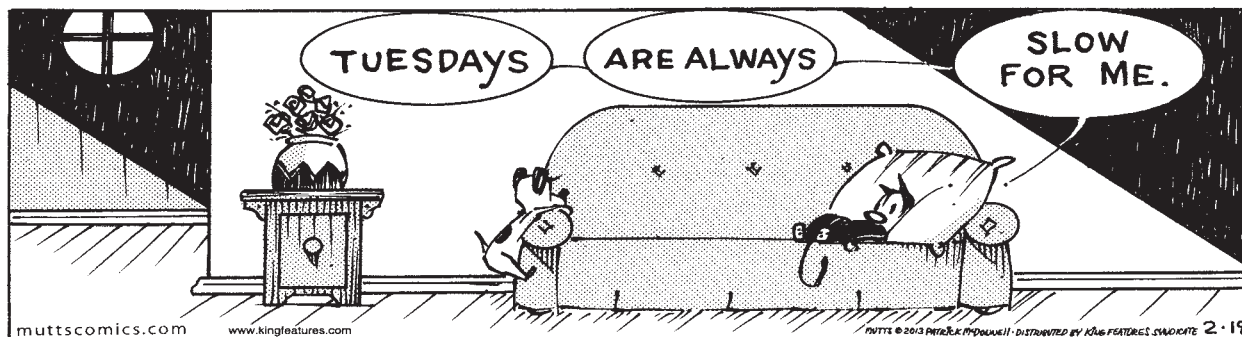
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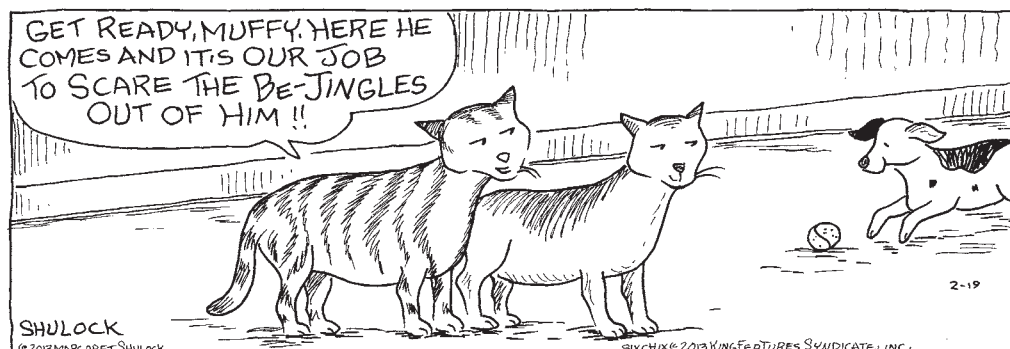


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4					3	8		6
				5		4		
5				9	8	1	7	
	4	1	6	3				2
	7		8					
6		8	5					4
	9				6		2	

Difficulty Level ★★

2/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

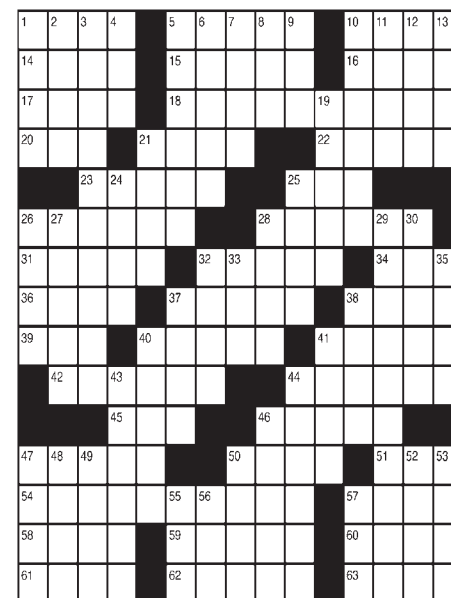
1	8	2	5	7	3	4	9	6
3	5	7	6	4	9	2	1	8
4	6	9	2	1	8	5	3	7
6	3	1	8	9	4	7	5	2
8	9	5	3	2	7	1	6	4
7	2	4	1	6	5	9	8	3
2	7	8	9	5	6	3	4	1
5	1	6	4	3	2	8	7	9
9	4	3	7	8	1	6	2	5

ACROSS

- 1 News, for short
- 5 Bury
- 10 Actor Robert
- 14 "The Farmer in the"
- 15 Money, slangily
- 16 Huge continent
- 17 Element whose symbol is Pb
- 18 Undoubtedly
- 20 Asner & Koch
- 21 Impudent talk
- 22 Takes a nap
- 23 Ethiopia's
- 25 Selassie
- 25 By way of
- 26 Military greeting
- 28 Parish leader
- 31 Similar
- 32 Mouthwash
- 33 directions verb
- 34 Brewer's tub
- 36 Musician's jobs
- 37 Verizon store purchase
- 38 Actor
- 39 Ooh and
- 40 Male duck
- 41 in; enter
- 42 Brook
- 44 Whines
- 45 Not longer; no more
- 46 Battle
- 47 Evert or Rock
- 50 Tupperware tops
- 51 "You what you eat"
- 54 Unable to go outside
- 57 Object; article
- 58 Qualified
- 59 food cake; spongy dessert
- 60 500 sheets of paper
- 61 Fawn bearers
- 62 Honking birds
- 63 Catch sight of

DOWN

- 1 Doing nothing
- 2 Have to have



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/19/13

Monday's Puzzle Solved

MASTS	TWAS	ADAM
ISAAC	EACH	RAGE
SAMBA	AREA	OVEN
SPELLERS	RE	MIND
ELLS	RE	PASTS
PISTOL	VISIT	
IOU	PESOS	CIGAR
EWER	NECKS	CAKE
DATES	LASTS	LID
SWELL	OCEANS	
APPEARS	NOUN	
BRONTE	WELL	TODD
HUNT	CHEW	PAGED
ONCE	TINT	TIRED
REED	SETS	SLEDS

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2/19/13

- 37 Say a "Hail Mary," e.g.
- 38 Deep long cut
- 40 Stupid
- 41 Annoys
- 43 Elevates
- 44 Violin
- 46 Monetary penalties
- 47 Actor Everett
- 48 Bum
- 49 Regulation
- 50 Sled race
- 52 Gather crops
- 53 TV show award
- 55 Paper sack
- 56 Small number
- 57 Anger

Wall Street may be getting ahead of itself

JONATHAN FAHEY
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market may have packed much of its fun for the year into one exhilarating January.

The market charged to its best start in decades even though the U.S. economy and corporate profits haven't broken out of a three-year pattern of slow, steady improvement despite record-low interest rates and billions of dollars of stimulus and tax cuts.

This steady growth will likely make for a good year for stocks, but January may account for much of the year's rise, analysts think.

"We thought this was going to be a good year for equities, we just didn't think we'd get it all in the first month," says Barry Knapp, head of U.S. equity strategy at Barclays Capital. "I'd love for the market to keep going up but when I look forward I see a lot of headwinds."

Corporate earnings growth is expected to slow dramatically early this year. Higher taxes will probably crimp people's spending. The relief after the fiscal cliff was averted will likely turn to anxiety as Congress bickers over a package of spending cuts. Job growth is steady, but unemployment has ticked up to 7.9 percent. Adding to those worries is the economy's unexpected retreat in the fourth quarter. The slowdown resulted

from one-time factors like lower defense spending, but it shows how vulnerable the economy is to government spending cuts and political fights.

"There's much more downside risk," says Doug Cote, chief market strategist at ING Investment Management. "Right now there's momentum behind the market and it seems to ignore bad news."

Markets surged as soon as the calendar turned to 2013 and kept rising for much of the month, pushing the Dow Jones industrial average to within a whisper of a record and pushing the S&P 500 past 1,500 for the first time in 5 years. The Dow logged its best start to the year in almost two decades. The Standard & Poor's 500 finished the month 5 percent higher, its best start to the year since 1997.

February started off on the same foot: The Dow finished up Friday 149 points to 14,010 and the S&P 500 rose 15 points to 1,513.

But the market may have gotten ahead of itself. Now that half of companies in the S&P 500 have reported fourth-quarter earnings, profit growth is expected to be up 5.8 percent, according to S&P Capital IQ. While solid, that's a smaller gain than a year earlier, and the slowdown could continue. Earnings growth is expected to slow to 1.7 percent for the first quarter. □



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Tel: 583-5400

Climate contradiction: Less snow, more blizzards

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — With scant snowfall and barren ski slopes in parts of the U.S. Midwest and Northeast the past couple of years, some scientists have pointed to global warming as the culprit.

Then, when a whopper of a blizzard smacked the Northeast with more than 2 feet (0.6 meters) of snow in some places earlier this month, some of the same people again blamed global warming.

How can that be? It's been a joke among skeptics, pointing to what seems to be a brazen contradiction. But the answer lies in atmospheric physics. A warmer atmosphere can hold, and dump, more moisture, snow experts say. And two soon-to-be-published studies demonstrate how there can be more giant blizzards yet less snow overall each year. Projections are that it's likely to continue with man-made global warming.

Consider:

— The United States has been hit by twice as many of the most extreme snowstorms in the past 50 years than in the previous 60 years, according to an upcoming study on extreme weather by leading government and university climate scientists. This fits with a dramatic upward trend in extreme winter precipitation — both rain and snow — in the Northeastern U.S. charted by the National Climatic Data Center.

— Yet the Global Snow Lab at Rutgers University says that spring snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere has shrunk on average by 1 million square miles in the last 45 years.

— And an upcoming study in the *Journal of Climate*

says computer models predict annual global snowfall to shrink by more than a foot (.3 meters) in the next 50 years. The study's author said most people live

casual knockout punch," Princeton University climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer said. "That's the new world we live in." Ten climate scientists say

cold enough for it to fall as snow," said Mark Serreze, director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center. "Increasingly, it seems that we're on that ragged

in the future.

"It fits the pattern that we expect to unfold," Oppenheimer said.

The world is warming, so precipitation that would normally fall as snow in the future will likely fall as rain once it gets above the freezing point, said Princeton researcher Sarah Kapnick.

Her study used new computer models to simulate the climate in 60 to 100 years as carbon dioxide levels soar. She found large reductions in snowfall throughout much of the world, especially parts of Canada and the Andes Mountains in South America. In the United States, her models predict about a 50 percent or more drop in annual snowfall amounts along a giant swath of the nation from Maine to Texas and the Pacific Northwest and California's Sierra Nevada mountains.

This is especially important out West, where large snowcaps are natural reservoirs for a region's water supply, Kapnick said.

And already in the Cascades of the Pacific Northwest and in much of California, the amount of snow still around on April 1 has been declining so that it's down about 20 percent compared to 80 years ago, said Philip Mote, who heads a climate change institute at Oregon State University.

Kapnick says it is snowing about as much as ever in the heart of winter, such as February. But the snow season is getting much shorter, especially in spring and in the northernmost areas, said Rutgers' David Robinson, a co-author of the study on extreme weather that will be published in the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*. The Rutgers snow lab says this January saw the sixth-widest snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere; the United States had an above average snow cover for the last few months. But that's a misleading statistic, Robinson said, because even though more ground is covered by snow, it's covered by less snow. □



In this Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013 file photo, Mike Brown of Boston cross country skis past snow-covered cars through the Chinatown neighborhood of Boston. Associated Press



In this Jan. 5, 2012 file photo, man-made snow coats a ski run next to barren ground under a chairlift at Shawnee Peak ski area in Bridgton, Maine. Associated Press

in parts of the United States that are likely to see annual snowfall drop between 30 and 70 percent by the end of the century.

"Shorter snow season, less snow overall, but the oc-

the idea of less snow and more blizzards makes sense: A warmer world is likely to decrease the overall amount of snow falling each year and shrink the snow season. But when it is cold enough for a snowstorm to hit, the slightly warmer air is often carrying more moisture, producing potentially historic blizzards.

"Strong snowstorms thrive on the ragged edge of temperature — warm enough for the air to hold lots of moisture, meaning lots of precipitation, but just

edge."

Scientists won't blame a specific event or even a specific seasonal change on global warming without doing intricate and time-consuming studies. And they say they are just now getting a better picture of the complex intersection of man-made climate change and extreme snowfall.

But when Serreze, Oppenheimer and others look at the last few years of less snow overall, punctuated by big storms, they say this is what they are expecting

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APNewsBreak: Jenni Rivera memoir due in July

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Some final words from the late Mexican-American singer and TV star Jenni Rivera will be out this summer.

Atria Books announced Monday it's publishing a memoir by the multimillion-selling artist, who died in a plane crash in December at age 43. "Unbreakable," coming out simultaneously in English and Spanish, is scheduled for July and has been authorized by Rivera's family.

Rosie Rivera, the late singer's sister, said the family had decided to share Rivera's book with her fans so they could "enjoy her as we have."

"I miss my sister every moment, but on days that I want to feel her close, I open her book written in her own words, and feel her right next to me," Rosie Rivera said in a statement issued by Atria.

Atria vice president and senior editor Johanna Castillo said she had talked to Rivera about the impact she hoped her book's message would have on readers.

"This book is her legacy to all of her fans," Castillo said.



In this April 26, 2012 file photo, singing superstar Jenni Rivera performs during the Latin Billboard Awards in Coral Gables, Fla.

Associated Press

Rivera had worked on "Unbreakable" for several years and completed it before her death, Atria spokesman Paul Olsewski said. She had been in talks with Atria, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, since 2011.

According to Atria, "Unbreakable" will provide "an intimate look into the heart and soul of this self-made woman, who ascended to the top of the charts against all odds, becoming a legend in a completely male dominated music category," gruperio, a type of Mexican folk music. □

Ex-boyfriend: McCready left drug rehab too soon

CHRIS TALBOTT

JEANNIE NUSS

Associated Press

HEBER SPRINGS, Arkansas

(AP) — Mindy McCready threatened to kill herself after losing custody of her sons earlier this month, yet she was allowed to leave a court-ordered drug rehabilitation program days before she apparently killed herself, her ex-boyfriend said Monday.

Billy McKnight, who was in a long, rocky relationship with McCready and who is the father of her oldest child, Zander, said the 37-year-old mother of two stayed in the in-patient substance abuse treatment center for about 18 hours before being allowed to walk free.

Authorities say McCready died in an apparent suicide Sunday at her home in Heber Springs, a vacation community north of Little Rock. Sheriff Marty Moss said McCready was found dead on the front porch where her boyfriend, musician David Wilson, died last month of a gunshot wound to the head. Investigators are investigating his death as a suicide, but haven't yet determined his cause of death.

McKnight, speaking to The Associated Press by phone



In this Nov. 14, 2008 file photo, Country singer Mindy McCready performs, in Nashville, Tenn. McCready, who hit the top of the country charts before personal problems sidetracked her career, died Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013. She was 37.

Associated Press

from Tampa, Florida, said McCready and Wilson had actually gotten engaged. He wondered how she was allowed to go free, given all the turmoil in her life.

"That was a big mistake on the part of whoever released her," McKnight said. "... She was in a terrible state of mind. She doesn't perform any more. She wasn't working. She has two kids and her fiancée was just killed. There's no way she should be out by herself in a lonely house with nothing but booze and pills. That was a really, really bad mistake, and the end result is tragic."

Neighbors reported hearing two shots Sunday afternoon when they called the Cleburne County Sheriff's Office. Authorities found Wilson's dog dead next to McCready's body.

"Based on what we have found at the scene at this time, we do believe that she took the life of the dog that we are being told by family members belonged to Mr. Wilson before she took her own life," Moss said.

The sheriff confirmed McCready's two sons re-

mained in foster care where they were at the time of her death. McKnight says he's working with authorities to get custody of his son, Zander, and was not privy to what's happening with infant boy Zayne, who was born to McCready and Wilson last year.

McCready's sons were put in foster care and she was ordered into rehab earlier this month after McCready's father expressed concern. He told a judge his daughter had stopped taking care of herself and her children after Wilson's death and she was abusing alcohol and prescription drugs. Moss said he expects McCready's official cause of death will be released soon, but that "all indicators" point to a suicide. Her body has been sent to the state crime lab for autopsy. McCready attempted suicide at least three times previously and her fragile state of mind was always a concern to family and friends who cared for her.

"This didn't come as a surprise, although shocking," McKnight said. □

Fergie, Josh Duhamel expecting first child

NEW YORK (AP) — Her hump, her hump, her lovely lady lump: Fergie is pregnant with her first child.

A representative for the Black Eyed Peas singer confirmed the news Monday. Fergie's actor husband Josh Duhamel tweeted about the news with joy, saying: "Fergie and Me and BABY makes three."

The 37-year-old Fergie and 40-year-old Duhamel married in 2009. She joined the Black Eyed Peas when the group released its third al-

bum, "Elephunk," in 2003. The foursome is known for its pop-inspired hip-hop tunes like "My Humps," "I Gotta Feeling" and "Boom Boom Pow."

Fergie launched her solo debut,

"The Duchess," to much success in 2006. It featured five Top 5 hits, including "Fergalicious" and "Big Girls Don't Cry."

Duhamel has appeared in the "Transformer" films and most recently in "Safe Haven." □



In this Dec. 9, 2012, file photo, Singer Fergie of the Black Eyed Peas walks with her husband Josh Duhamel, right, on the sidelines during the first quarter of an NFL football game between the San Francisco 49ers and the Miami Dolphins in San Francisco.

Associated Press

‘Argo,’ ‘Zero Dark Thirty’ win at Writers Guild

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The CIA thrillers “Argo” and “Zero Dark Thirty” have won top screenplay honors from the Writers Guild of America.

The guild’s adapted screenplay award Sunday went to Chris Terrio for “Argo,” director Ben Affleck’s tale of the CIA’s daring masquerade of six U.S. diplomats as a Hollywood film crew to rescue them from Iran during the hostage crisis there.

Mark Boal won the prize for original screenplay for “Zero Dark Thirty,” director Kathryn Bigelow’s chronicle of the CIA’s manhunt for al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

Director Malik Bendjelloul won the documentary award for “Searching for Sugar Man,” his portrait of acclaimed but largely forgotten 1970s musician Ro-

driguez.

The guild was the last of Hollywood’s major trade unions to weigh in on the year’s top films before next Sunday’s Academy Awards.

“Argo” has emerged as the best-picture favorite for the Oscars after sweeping top prizes at earlier film honors, including the Golden Globes and awards from the Directors Guild of America, the Screen Actors Guild and the Producers Guild of America.

Among the guild’s TV winners:

— Drama series: “Breaking Bad,” written by Sam Catlin, Vince Gilligan, Peter Gould, Gennifer Hutchison, George Mastras, Thomas Schnauz and Moira Walley-Beckett.

— Comedy series: “Louie,” written by Pamela Adlon, Vernon Chatman and Lou-



Jessica Chastain attends the 2013 Writers Guild Awards at the JW Marriott on Sunday, Feb. 17., 2013 in Los Angeles. Associated Press

is C.K.

— New series: “Girls,” written by Judd Apatow, Lesley Arfin, Lena Dunham, Sarah Heyward, Bruce Eric Kaplan, Jenni Konner, Deborah Schoeneman and Dan Sterling. □

Letters from Lennon killer to NY cop on sale in LA

**COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Letters from John Lennon’s killer detailing his obsession with the novel “The Catcher in the Rye” to the police officer who arrested him went on sale Monday through a Los Angeles auction house.

The four missives from Mark David Chapman to Stephen Spiro are for sale through Moments In Time, which specializes in historical documents and rare autographs, at a fixed price of \$75,000, auction house owner Gary Zimet said. Zimet is selling the letters on behalf of Spiro, who arrested Chapman on Dec. 8, 1980, shortly after he shot Lennon outside The Dakota, the ex-Beatle’s Manhattan apartment building.

The letters are typed and signed by Chapman. They were written over several

months in 1983, after he had pleaded guilty and been sentenced to 20 years to life in prison.

In the first letter, from Jan. 15, 1983, Chapman says his reason for writing, besides wanting to be Spiro’s friend, is to ask for help in locating his copy of “The Catcher in the Rye,” which he was reading at the time of his arrest.

“Have you read ‘The Catcher in the Rye’ yet?” Chapman asks. “I would like you to read it and tell me what you think of it. As you remember, in the copy that was taken from me I had written ‘This is my statement.’”

Spiro said he received the first letter at the Manhattan precinct where he worked and wrote Chapman back because he was hoping to get evidence on a possible hit list of other victims and people acting with Chapman. □

Int’l Jazz Day to celebrate Turkish jazz link

**CHARLES J. GANS
Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Pianist Herbie Hancock will celebrate the special connection between Turkey and jazz music forged decades ago when the Turkish ambassador opened his residence to white and black musicians at a time when segregation held sway in the U.S. capital.

Hancock, a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, is organizing a gala concert with jazz stars from around the world on April 30 at the famed Hagia Irene in the outer courtyard of Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, which has been designated the host city for the second annual U.N.-sanctioned International Jazz Day.

“There’s an amazing history of the relationship between Turkey and jazz,” Hancock told The Associated Press in a telephone interview ahead of Tuesday’s official announcement of the 2013 International Jazz Day program.



This publicly distributed handout photo made available by the Library Congress shows from left, Lawrence Brown, Johnny Hodges, and Adele Girard, performing at the Turkish Embassy in Washington, in the 1930s. Associated Press

It began in the ‘30s and ‘40s when the two sons of Turkish Ambassador Mehmet Munir Ertegun pursued their passion for jazz by frequenting the capital’s black neighborhoods to buy “race” records not available elsewhere, and attend concerts at the Howard Theater, a mecca for leading African-Ameri-

can entertainers. Their father readily agreed when the brothers began inviting musicians to the ambassador’s mansion for Sunday lunches followed by integrated jam sessions in an upstairs music parlor. The guests included jazz royalty from the Duke Ellington and Count Basie bands such as Lester Young, Ben-

ny Carter, Harry Carney, Johnny Hodges and Rex Stewart.

Hancock says he was particularly impressed by a story told to him by Turkey’s current ambassador, Namik Tan, about how his predecessor responded whenever outraged Southern senators would complain that “a person of color was seen entering your house by the front door (which) is not a practice to be encouraged.” The ambassador would offer a terse one-sentence reply such as: “In my home, friends enter by the front door — however we can arrange for you to enter from the back.”

“That was fantastic ... that he always had the embassy open to jazz musicians,” Hancock said. “Think about the state of civil rights and race relations at that time.”

After the ambassador died in 1944, his sons remained in the U.S. Ahmet Ertegun founded Atlantic

Records where he helped move African-American music into the mainstream of American pop culture, launching the careers of Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin, among others. His older brother, Nesuhi, headed the label’s jazz department, producing significant recordings by jazz legends such as the Modern Jazz Quartet, John Coltrane, Charles Mingus and Ornette Coleman.

Tan acknowledged the tradition by launching the Ertegun Jazz Series of concerts at the Embassy Residence in 2011. “International Jazz Day 2013 will provide a unique opportunity to pay tribute to the legacy of the Ertegun Brothers by bringing together artists from all around the world to celebrate jazz music’s universal messages of peace, freedom and fraternity in the unique city of Istanbul where continents and civilizations meet,” Tan said in an email. □

Don't Mythologize Dorner



CHARLES M. BLOW
© 2013 New York Times

I am no stranger to people's glomming on to deadly criminals and celebrating them as heroes. Bonnie and Clyde were killed just south of the town where I grew up. There was that movie made about the couple, as well as a musical and more songs that I can count. And every year the town celebrates the duo and their killing with a festival and a shootout.

Last year, one website promoting the festival read: "Bring your family and friends and join us each year as we remember the historical ambush of the infamous outlaws Bonnie & Clyde, with fun festivities, great food, music and authentic re-enactments."

But as romantic as people try to make the criminal couple and the circumstances of their death, they still can't erase the wrong the duo did.

The same is true for Christopher Dorner – the former Los Angeles police officer and fugitive accused of killing several people, including one police officer and a sheriff's deputy – who died this week in a cabin fire while on the run.

A rambling manifesto Dorner issued had many gripes, but chief among them were that racism, abuse of power and corruption ran rampant in the Los Angeles Police Department and that he had been fired for reporting it.

Now Dorner is being compared to movie heroes, has a song written about him and has a long list of fan pages on Facebook.

But make no mistake: Christopher Dorner is no hero. Here are some of the other things in Dorner's manifesto.

He says of his planned attacks on other officers:

"The attacks will stop when the department states the truth about my innocence, PUBLICLY!!!"

He threatened that he would "use the element of surprise where you work, live, eat and sleep," and discover the officers' "residences, spouses workplaces, and children's schools." He continued: "To those children of the officers who are eradicated, your parent was not the individual you thought they were."

Through his own words, Dorner forfeits any aspiration to the title

of hero.

Some commentators have tried valiantly to thread an impossibly small needle in separating what Dorner did, which all people of good conscience despise, from the serious issues he raises.

Marc Lamont Hill, a Columbia University professor, said on CNN:

"This has been an important public conversation that we've had about police brutality, about police corruption, about state violence. I mean there were even talks about making him the first domestic drone target. This is serious business here." Hill continued:

"I don't think it's been a waste of time at all. And as far as Dorner himself goes, he's been like a real life superhero to many people. Now don't get me wrong. What he did was awful, killing innocent people was bad, but when you read his manifesto, when you read the message that he left, he wasn't entirely crazy. He had a plan and a mission here. And many people aren't rooting for him to kill innocent people. They are rooting for somebody who was wronged to get a kind of revenge against the system. It's almost like watching 'Django Unchained' in real life. It's kind of exciting."

I agree that the issues of police brutality and corruption should now and always be part of the conversation, particularly when discussing police departments with a bad history when it comes to minority and other vulnerable communities.

But I do not see a need to explain why people – particularly many on social media – are mythologizing Dorner. Rooting for a suspected killer who makes threats against even more innocent people and their families is just horrendous. It's not exciting; it's revolting.

Hill later apologized for his choice of words. I applaud him for doing that.

Still, too many people online have portrayed Dorner's actions as righteous retribution. But nothing can change the fact that those actions are wrong.

Fighting for justice is noble. Spilling innocent blood is the ultimate act of cowardice. Dorner is not the right emblem for those wronged by the system.

This is not a game or a movie. This is about real people who lead real lives and their real families who dug real graves. Let's give everyone involved time to mourn. Let's have the respect to not honor the person believed to be responsible for the mourning.

According to KTLA in Los Angeles, Dorner's mother issued a statement that read in part: "It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we express our deepest sympathies and condolences to anyone that suffered losses or injuries resulting from Christopher's actions." □



Rubio And The Zombies



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2013 New York Times

The State of the Union address was not, I'm sorry to say, very interesting. True, the president offered many good ideas. But we already know that almost none of those ideas will make it past a hostile House of Representatives. On the other hand, the GOP reply, delivered by Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, was both interesting and revelatory. And I mean that in the worst way. For Rubio is a rising star, to such an extent that Time magazine put him on its cover, calling him "The Republican Savior." What we learned Tuesday, however, was that zombie economic ideas have eaten his brain.

In case you're wondering, a zombie idea is a proposition that has been thoroughly refuted by analysis and evidence, and should be dead – but won't stay dead because it serves a political purpose, appeals to prejudices, or both. The classic zombie idea in U.S. political discourse is the notion that tax cuts for the wealthy pay for themselves, but there are many more. And, as I said, when it comes to economics it appears that Rubio's mind is zombie-infested.

Start with the big question: How did we get into the mess we're in?

The financial crisis of 2008 and its painful aftermath, which we're still dealing with, were a huge slap in the face for free-market

fundamentalists. Circa 2005, the usual suspects – conservative publications, analysts at right-wing think tanks like the American Enterprise Institute and the Cato Institute, and so on – insisted that deregulated financial markets were doing just fine, and dismissed warnings about a housing bubble as liberal whining. Then the nonexistent bubble burst, and the financial system proved dangerously fragile; only huge government bailouts prevented a total collapse.

Instead of learning from this experience, however, many on the right have chosen to rewrite history. Back then, they thought things were great, and their only complaint was that the government was getting in the way of even more mortgage lending; now they claim that government policies, somehow dictated by liberals even though the GOP controlled both Congress and the White House, were promoting excessive borrowing and causing all the problems.

Every piece of this revisionist history has been refuted in detail. No, the government didn't force banks to lend to Those People; no, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac didn't cause the housing bubble (they were doing relatively little lending during the peak bubble years); no, government-sponsored lenders weren't responsible for the surge in risky mortgages (private mortgage issuers accounted for the vast majority of the riskiest loans).

But the zombie keeps shambling on – and here's Rubio on Tuesday night: "This idea – that our problems were caused by a government that was too small – it's just not true. In fact, a major cause of our recent downturn was a housing crisis created by reckless government policies." Yep, it's the full zombie.

What about responding to the crisis? Four years ago, right-wing

economic analysts insisted that deficit spending would destroy jobs, because government borrowing would divert funds that would otherwise have gone into business investment, and also insisted that this borrowing would send interest rates soaring. The right thing, they claimed, was to balance the budget, even in a depressed economy.

Now, this argument was obviously fallacious from the beginning. As people like me tried to point out, the whole reason our economy was depressed was that businesses weren't willing to invest as much as consumers were trying to save. So government borrowing would not, in fact, drive up interest rates – and trying to balance the budget would simply deepen the depression.

Sure enough, interest rates, far from soaring, are at historic lows – and countries that slashed spending have also seen sharp job losses. You rarely get this clear a test of competing economic ideas, and the right's ideas failed.

But the zombie still shambles on. And here's Rubio: "Every dollar our government borrows is money that isn't being invested to create jobs. And the uncertainty created by the debt is one reason why many businesses aren't hiring." Zombies 2, Reality 0.

In fairness to Rubio, what he's saying isn't any different from what everyone else in his party is saying. But that, of course, is what's so scary.

For here we are, more than five years into the worst economic slump since the Great Depression, and one of our two great political parties has seen its economic doctrine crash and burn twice: first in the run-up to crisis, then again in the aftermath. Yet that party has learned nothing; it apparently believes that all will be well if it just keeps repeating the old slogans, but louder. □

Lighter menus gain favor with diners and owners

STEPHANIE STROM

© 2013 New York Times

Driven by pressures like consumer demand and looming federal regulations that will require them to post calorie counts on menus, restaurant chains around the country are adding more nutritious choices and shrinking portion sizes.

The smaller portions, which are not necessarily cheaper, are the first step toward reversing the practice of piling more food on a plate

a lot of finger pointing at the industry by the media and others, including customers, that is spurring the movement," said Anita Jones-Mueller, a registered dietitian who is president and founder of Healthy Dining Finder, a website that helps users find restaurants with healthy options using ZIP codes.

One gauge – the number of restaurants with vetted healthy options listed on the site – has increased more than 2,000 percent,

about it," Cardello said.

The results of his research will be published Thursday in a report financed in part by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The Obama administration's health care act, which was passed in 2010 included a provision requiring restaurants and food establishments with 20 or more locations to post the calorie counts of standard items on their menus. The final regulations are expected soon, with compli-



Pita Pit's "Light Caesar" pita, one of the chain's new under 500 calorie options, at a Pita Pit location in Henrietta, N.Y. Driven by pressures ranging from consumer demand to looming federal regulation, restaurant chains around the country are not only adding more nutritious, lighter choices, they're shrinking portion sizes.

(Brett Carlsen/The New York Times)

than anyone needs in a single meal, a trend that began nearly three decades ago. Besides making a contribution to customers' health, restaurant owners are finding that the move is paying off financially.

Sbarro for example, is offering a "skinny slice," with a different mix of cheese and more vegetables at 270 calories. Longhorn Steakhouse has smaller portions of beef that qualify for its lower calorie Flavorful Under 500 menu.

"Menu labeling is part of it, but there's also been

and many have been added just in the last couple of years, Jones-Mueller said. "Customers really want these items, so restaurants are working to make them more appealing," she said. Hank Cardello, director of the obesity solutions initiative at the Hudson Institute, a public policy research organization, has been studying the impact that lower calorie menu options have on restaurants' business. "Lower calorie menu items were driving restaurant growth over the last several years, no doubt

ance likely to be required by 2014.

While the move by restaurants to more nutritional menu offerings is driven by external factors, many operators are finding that cutting calories, sodium, sugar and fat pays off.

"It's doing great," Brian Bailey, co-founder and chief executive of the Ichor Restaurant Group, said of the company's new restaurant concept, Baja Pizzafish. "To serve fish tacos in Ohio is testament not only that the food tastes good, but that people really want it."



Anita Jones-Mueller, founder of Healthy Dining Finder, a website that helps users find restaurants with healthy options, in the kitchen of the Elephant Bar restaurant in Goleta, Calif. (Michal Czerwonka/The New York Times)

The chain, which opened in July, offers the option of brown rice in its rice bowls, and 3 ounces of grilled salmon steak or shrimp can be added. Bailey describes the dishes as "smaller amounts of protein and more fresh vegetables." Other menu items include thin-crust pizzas with potatoes and other lean toppings, salads and tortilla wraps.

Mooyah, a build-a-burger chain based in Frisco, Texas, that dedicates itself to burgers, fries and 100 percent ice cream shakes, put lower-calorie options on its menu to attract a group of customers that Alexis Barnett Gillette, the marketing director, nicknamed "the veto vote."

"What we found is if you limit yourself to the beef hamburger, there are certainly a growing number of folks who wouldn't even consider our restaurants," Barnett Gillette said. "It could be Mom, who's a vegetarian and may not want to go to a burger restaurant or turkeytarians or someone with

a health restriction of some sort." So Mooyah offers the choice of a 200-calorie turkey burger with less than 10 grams of fat on a choice of a white or whole wheat bun. It also has a black bean vegetable burger and sweet potato fries, a small portion of which is 255 calories compared with 278 calories in the same size portion of regular french fries.

Still other restaurants are finding ways to highlight existing options on their menus that make a healthier meal, like Pita Pit's Resolution Solution. The menu helps customers who build their pitas better understand how to create a healthier option, said Jack Riggs, chief executive of Pita Pit USA.

"When the public starts saying it wants healthier options – and we are hearing that – we have an obligation to help show you what that means in our restaurant and give you choices to help you achieve that," Riggs said. "That's good business." □